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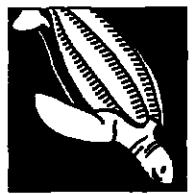
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12 HOLIDAYS FOR TWO TO BE WON

IN THE TIMES NEXT WEEK



CRUITS: ALL THE RESULTS
On Monday: how they choose the champions- and a full list of winners



TURTLES UNDER THREAT

The ocean's most beautiful and ancient creature may soon be hunted to extinction
Jo Andrews reports

HOT COUTURE
On Wednesday: what Paris says the sexy and stylish woman will be wearing.
Iain R. Webb reports



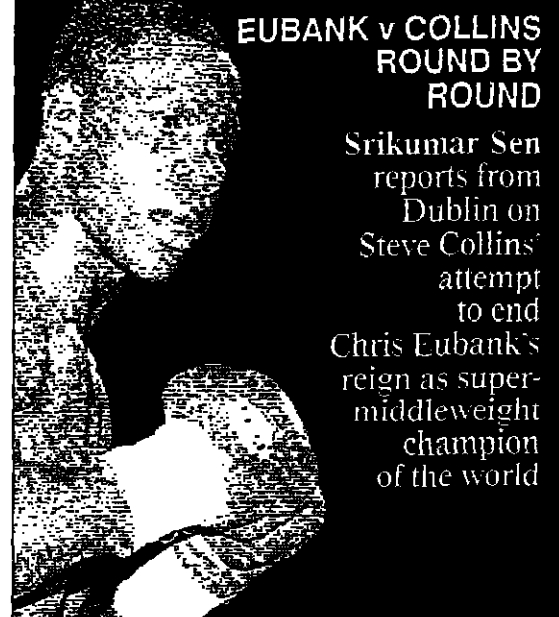
BY GEORGE WE'VE DONE IT

On Thursday: film critic Geoff Brown on Oscar hope Nigel Hawthorne in *The Madness of King George*, and other films of the week



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SPORT ON MONDAY



EUBANK v COLLINS ROUND BY ROUND

Srikumar Sen reports from Dublin on Steve Collins' attempt to end Chris Eubank's reign as super-middleweight champion of the world

ENGLAND v SCOTLAND THE INSIDER'S VIEW

Rob Andrew on playing in rugby union's grand slam finale at Twickenham

LIVERPOOL v MANCHESTER UTD CLASH OF THE GIANTS

Rob Hughes at Anfield

THE BEST REPORTS AND WRITERS ON 11 PAGES

Army cadet dies, 7 hurt as wind fells ancient oak

By LIN JENKINS

A PUBLIC schoolboy was killed and seven of his fellow pupils in the Army cadet corps injured when a tree fell on them as they sheltered in a sports pavilion during gales that caused havoc in the South East yesterday.

The pupils from Seaford College were trapped in the debris when the giant oak, which survived the hurricane of 1987, crashed on to them as they took cover in the grounds during the storm. Winds were gusting at up to 70mph.

Police, firemen and ambulance crews freed the boys, aged 14 and 15, and they were taken to St Richard's Hospital, Chichester, West Sussex. One was dead on arrival.

The school nestles at the foot of the South Downs near Petworth, set in a 300-acre park dating from the reign of Elizabeth I. It caters primarily for the sons of those in the military and diplomatic service, and has around 320 pupils most of them boarders, 40 of whom are in the junior school. Fees for boarders range up to £4,000 a term.

A Sussex Police spokesman said the names of the boys involved would not be released until their parents had been informed. Mark Osbourne, station officer at Chichester fire station, said: "The cadets were sheltering from the gale behind the sports pavilion when the oak tree near by which had survived the 1987 hurricane came crashing down on them, damaging the pavilion."

"With the police and ambulance men we freed them from the branches. But unfortunately one of the boys was dead."

A spokeswoman at St Richard's Hospital said two boys were seriously ill and undergoing surgery. They were expected to be transferred to intensive care, but the spokeswoman did not think their lives were in danger.

Two other boys had suffered

injuries of "medium" severity and were described as "poorly". The spokeswoman said: "There may be others at the hospital in shock who are not being treated for injuries." She said the boy who died had been killed at the scene.

Philip Hill, the school registrar, said: "We have had terrible gusts here and a big storm had been blowing up when the tree came down."

"The boys had been on an Army corps exercise and were near the oak tree adjacent to our playing fields. There was nothing wrong with the tree. It was brought down by the heavy winds."

Sergeant Andy Pepler, of Sussex Police, said: "We have had one deceased person who is believed to be 14 years old and the injured lads are believed to be the same age. The lads were sheltering behind a shed and would not have seen the tree coming down. It is a very tragic accident. There have been serious weather warnings for the area and we have had some very blustery winds."

The winds uprooted trees, ripped off roofs and halted trains throughout the South East. A passenger train collided with a tree blown on to the line near Camberley, Surrey, and parts of Waterloo and Clapham Junction stations were sealed off as gales of up to 80mph smashed canopies, bringing shattered glass crashing down on commuters.

A spokesman for South West Trains said that passengers on the Ascot to Aldershot train had not been injured in the crash. The line was closed for more than an hour as engineers removed the debris.

Services were also affected in Hampshire by fallen trunks and branches blocking tracks. "Trees also crashed down on cars parked just yards from a nursery school in Berkshire and in Oxfordshire, three lorries were blown over on the M40."

Whipless rebels may abstain on CAP vote

By NICHOLAS WOOD
CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

JOHN MAJOR'S hopes of healing Tory wounds over Europe are likely to suffer another setback on Tuesday in a Commons vote on the common agricultural policy.

Most of the nine whipless Tory rebels are likely to abstain in the vote, so risking prolonging their exile from the Conservative fold. Government whips have indicated that if the rebels back the Government over the CAP they will have the whip restored by Easter. But if they continue to rock the boat, their return will be delayed.

Continued rebel defiance would be a blow to the Prime Minister's hopes of uniting his party and putting it in shape to fight the Scottish council elections next month and the English ones in May. Many Tory MPs fear that a drubbing at the English polls could trigger another leadership crisis for the Prime Minister.

However, the Government seems in little danger of losing the vote unless the Liberal Democrats and the Ulster Unionists back Labour. Yesterday Sir Teddy Taylor, one of the rebels, said that they could not vote in support of the European Union's system of farm-price support, which is estimated to cost the average British family £16-£28 a week.

In another development, it emerged that Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, will be questioned by a Commons committee next Wednesday



John Major in Peterborough. He faces more disunity

over Britain's border controls. Charles Wardle, who resigned from the Government in protest at its alleged failure to secure legally watertight safeguards for the controls, will be among Tories lining up to question Mr Howard.

The renewed tremors over Europe came as Jeremy Hanley, the Tory party chairman, rejected suggestions that Mr

Major and John Major, his deputy, had distanced themselves from his accusations that Labour councils tended to be corrupt. Renewing his claims in the Tories' local government election campaign, Mr Hanley said that while the Prime Minister had to weigh his words with care, the party chairman could "speak as I think fit".

Twickenham showdown

Continued from page 1
vision screens have been put up for the 1,000 fans expected during the match. A further 500 are anticipated afterwards to celebrate or drown their sorrows. "We have had haggis and Scotch pies flown down especially from Fife," said Mr Smith. "I suspect we will down a few drams of whisky or two."

A more upmarket gathering will be held at the Caledonian Club, off Eaton Square, which

is staging a traditional Scottish pre-match lunch for its members. Buchanan's Restaurant in Battersea Bridge Road, named after the author of *The Thirty Nine Steps*, will be popular with expatriate Scots. It has a traditional Scottish menu tonight, parrot pie (rich crab soup) Loch Fyne oysters, Scottish steak and salmon, and cranachan (whisky and oat meal pudding) washed down with Silver Birch wine from from

Moniak Castle in Inverness. There is one disadvantage. Jeremy Bolam, the owner, is only half-Scottish. "The rest of me is English. I have divided loyalties."

The Royal Bank of Scotland is one of the many companies which will be providing corporate hospitality. "As so many of our clients and branches are English it will be an even mix of Scots and English," a spokesman said. "But we will be supporting Scotland."

Pope rules on fertility treatment

Continued from page 1
womb. Catholic couples can avoid destroying embryos by doing without the fertility drugs, extracting a single egg from the ovary, fertilising it and replacing a single embryo.

The encyclical addresses three main areas: the life of the embryo in terms of medical research and IVF, abortion and euthanasia. It is the first time these three areas have been linked in such a document.

It is understood to condemn embryo research and genetic manipulation which lead to the death of a foetus, but accepts life-enhancing operations on a foetus within the womb, so long as the baby's life is not directly threatened. It argues that advances in science prove an embryo is a human being, and should be protected as such.

The encyclical was expected last November but was delayed until now, ostensibly because of translation difficulties. However, Vatican sources attribute the delay to a dispute between traditionalist theologians in the Vatican who drafted the text, and Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, Prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith.

For once, the Cardinal, known as a conservative, is credited with arguing on the more liberal wing, and his objections are understood to have led to a revision of the draft, removing some fundamentalist statements on birth control.

A senior Catholic source, who has seen the encyclical, said: "It comes down against embryology in so far as it leads to the death of foetuses. It says that abortion is under no circumstances permissible. Capital punishment is allowable under only very exceptional circumstances, when there is no other option."

He added: "The Vatican views IVF as permissible under certain circumstances."

Its effect will be to make IVF a lot more expensive and a lot less likely to succeed for Catholic couples. Some elect to use the GIFT technique in which the eggs are mixed with the sperm and transferred immediately to the womb so that no embryo is grown outside the body.

Credo, page 11

Tomatoes may help to prevent cancer

Tomatoes may guard against cancer, a British scientist says. Professor George Truscott, head of the chemistry department at Keele University, says that lycopene, the pigment that turns tomatoes red, may provide protection against cancer-causing toxins in cigarette smoke and exhaust fumes.

Lycopene is one of a group of chemicals called carotenoids. They are known to have beneficial effects, including providing vitamin A. Professor Truscott says: "People certainly do not eat enough tomatoes and up to 2lb a day could make all the difference. Even when cooked, the colouring is still in tomatoes and is just as effective as an anti-cancer agent." He is considering developing a concentrated tomato pill that could give the same dose.

Professor Truscott, who worked with Dr Fritz Böhm of Humboldt University, Berlin, says that lycopene is particularly effective in protecting human cells against the effects of nitrogen dioxide, one component of exhaust fumes. There is one drawback: a high tomato diet causes an artificial tan. "But I'm sure people won't mind. At any rate, it's a safer way to colour your skin than sunbathing."

IRA disowns store bomb

The IRA accused its opponents of planting a Semtex bomb that exploded at a DIY store in Newry, Co Down, on Thursday. No one was injured. The IRA said the bomb was intended to derail the peace process. "The success of which we in the IRA are fully committed to." One security source said he suspected that republican opponents of the ceasefire had planted it, and the Ulster Unionist MP Ken Maginnis blamed the IRA. Martin McGuinness, of Sinn Féin, said British agents were responsible.

Grenades washed up

Hundreds of corroded cylinders containing weapons from the Second World War have been washed ashore on the Isle of Man, the southwest coast of Scotland and the eastern coast of Northern Ireland. The cylinders are believed to contain anti-tank grenades, which were among 150,000 tonnes of weapons dumped at sea after the war, according to a report on BBC radio yesterday. Weapons were ditched in the North Channel, the strait between Dumfries and Galloway and the Antrim coastline.

Riverboat relatives' plea

Relatives of the victims of the *Marchioness* disaster yesterday demanded an inquiry to deal specifically with the reasons for the removal of hands from 25 of those who died on the riverboat in 1989. Dr John Burton, the West London Coroner, had ruled as inadmissible at the inquest any further questions about the amputation of victims' hands. A Home Office pathologist had earlier said the hands were removed to assist in the identification process and "to facilitate the process through the mortuary".

Adoption appeal fails

An Arab adopted by a Jewish couple and brought up in the Jewish faith could not reverse the adoption order made 35 years ago, the Appeal Court ruled yesterday. Jonathan Bradley, 36, is unwelcome in Israel, where he had been suspected of being a Palestinian spy and had been asked to leave. He is not wanted in Arab countries either because his papers say he is Jewish. Rejecting his appeal, the three judges said they had the "greatest sympathy" with Mr Bradley, who lives in Victoria, central London.

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Ronnie Kray kept an arsenal of pistols and swords. He was reluctant to delegate acts of brutality

East End brawler destroyed by his love of violence

By Bill Frost

RONNIE KRAY revelled in the violent trade he learnt so well in the streets and alleys of Bethnal Green, the East End "manor" where he and his brother were born. The twins were marked out from childhood for a special place in the neighbourhood's already rich criminal history. Their prowess as remorseless brawlers inspired fear and respect.

While Reggie could be charming and gregarious, Ronnie was a lonely young man obsessed with his mother Violet and with fantasies about violent crime. The combination of personalities gave the twins an overwhelming advantage when they came up against the other teenage gangs operating primitive protection rackets.

Having dealt with the opposition in a ruthless style that was to become their trademark, the twins were the undisputed rulers of their manor by the late 1950s. With the passage of the Gaming Act they moved into the gambling clubs "up west". Their growing gang, now christened The Firm and decked out in mohair suits, offered protection for a fee: those who failed to pay soon learnt that crossing the Krays, and Ronnie in particular, was a dangerous, sometimes fatal, error.

Both had been expert if brutal professional boxers in their time, and began cultivat-

ing some of sport's celebrities as their wealth and largesse grew. They entertained in regal style and made sure to be pictured with their guests.

But Ronnie's grip on reality was beginning to slip; he called himself "The Colonel" and, on occasions, seemed to believe he held military rank. While serving a brief prison sentence in his mid-20s he suffered a nervous breakdown that left him more unpredictable than ever.

His personal arsenal included cudgels, pistols and a selection of swords. Such was his fondness for violence that he seldom delegated when the need arose to punish or intimidate.

His undisguised homosexuality set him apart from fellow gangsters and gave him access to august company. Among his intimate circle were the Tory peer Lord Boothby, the Labour MP Tom Driberg and the artist Francis Bacon, who later said Ronnie Kray's face was "the most frightening I have ever seen".

A 1963 photograph of Boothby, Kray and a young man drinking in the peer's flat brought embarrassment and scandal to the Government. Subsequently it emerged that the gangster was offering to procure teenage boys for his well-placed friends.

Aware of their unwelcome celebrity, the twins became

slightly more discreet. But they found it difficult to be inconspicuous and could not resist the temptation of being pictured with celebrities.

Victims of the twins' extortion and blackmail rackets, who were once unwilling to approach the police, were now paying out so much to The Firm that they began to reconsider.

It was the murder of George Cornell, a rival gangster, that sealed Ronnie's fate. Among Cornell's offences had been to describe the increasingly bloated Kray as "that fat poof". Ronnie shot Cornell dead in the saloon bar of the Blind Beggar pub in the Mile End Road, east London. Afterwards he kept up his spirits by playing the wartime speeches of his hero, Winston Churchill.

Reggie, urged on by his twin, then stabbed Jack "The Hat" McVitie to death in a flat in Stoke Newington, north London, after McVitie was said to have threatened Ronnie's life.

The Krays were convicted of the murders by an Old Bailey jury in 1969 and sentenced to prison terms of not less than 30 years. Mr Justice Melford Stevenson told them: "In my view, society has earned a rest from your activities."

Incarceration increased the media's interest in the Krays. But while Reggie coped with prison, his twin became more disturbed than ever. A transfer to Broadmoor saw the once-arrogant gangster humbled. He acknowledged his mental illness and, bizarrely, married twice — most recently in 1989 to Kate Howard, a former kissagram girl.

After the marriage had inevitably broken down, he relied increasingly on the constant visits of his underworld friends and younger male admirers. He held court as he had done before, but instead of limitless champagne he could offer only alcohol-free lager.

As his health deteriorated he wrote that he would like to be freed to live out what time remained with his brother in Suffolk. "Somehow, though, I don't think that will be possible... in my darker moments I believe I will never get out of Broadmoor."



"The fighting Kray twins" in 1952 (Ronnie on right)

Today's gangs are nastier

By Stewart Tendler, Crime Correspondent

NIPPER READ, the Scotland Yard detective who put the Krays behind bars, has never forgotten his first sight of Ronnie — stepping from a big American car behind a bodyguard. "He had a cashmere coat down to his ankles," Mr Reed recalled. "He looked like Al Capone without the fedora."

Thirty years later no successful East End criminal would dream of behaving like the Krays. Where the twins once progressed down Bethnal Green streets like royalty, their successors pass unnoticed in a crowd and often by the police.

Mr Reed said: "If the Krays drove down the road everyone waved at them. If someone had a drink with them it was like having tea with Princess Margaret."

The traditional East End

criminal families are still operating, but they are increasingly being replaced by a new breed of sophisticated professionals. One police source said: "They are less flamboyant but more successful and more deadly. The Krays are a music hall act compared with today's intelligent, resourceful criminals. The empires are far bigger, richer than the Krays."

Another Yard officer said: "They are nastier than the Krays ever were. None of them is stupid enough to embark on a career of crime in a blaze of publicity."

The Krays' methods, based on protection rackets and violence, may have brought a small empire, but cannabis, heroin and cocaine bring millions with far fewer risks. The Kray gang was out working every day for its cash;

drug consignments may be delivered only once a month. Guns were still a rarity in 1960s crime; today they are commonplace. The killing of George Cornell, after one shot at the Blind Beggar pub, shocked the underworld but several years ago an affronted minor criminal sprayed an East End pub with bullets. Epping Forest has become a dumping ground for the victims of contract killings.

Today's criminals flourish in a vastly different environment from that of the Krays. Many of the cramped terraces and backstreets have been replaced by modern housing estates with large ethnic minority groups.

A criminal intelligence expert said: "The Krays were a product of their time and they are history. The criminal world has moved on."



Ronnie Kray at his mother's funeral in August 1982

ON RONNIE...

"In the minds of many who don't know too much about him he will be remembered as a Robin Hood type figure." — Fred Dinwidge, TV personality and author of Ronnie Kray's biography.

"Ronnie was aghast at the violence seen in today's newspapers. He did not hold with people battering old ladies or men murdering women in sex crimes. He once told me that flogging and National Service should be brought back. He felt that the whole crime thing had got out of hand." — Nurse who treated him at Broadmoor.

"He had principles in his life. All he ever tried to do was to keep boys out of trouble." — Charlie Kray, elder brother.

"It was awful that he died while still a prisoner. I think his brother Reggie should be let out, especially now. Enough's enough, they have done their time." — Barbara Windsor.

"Ronnie was always very polite, a true gentleman. I will remember him as a very pleasant man to talk to. He was always thoughtful and polite." — Colin Fry, author of a book on the Krays.

"He sliced up more people than most normal people slice up Sunday joints." — John McVicar, writer and reformed villain.

Frankie mourns 'marvellous man'

By Adam Fresco

THE East End mourned the death of one of its own yesterday, with the locals all agreeing that Ronnie was a "good boy" who looked after old ladies.

"Mad" Frankie Fraser, a former gangster who has spent 40 of his 72 years in prison for violent crimes committed during the Kray era, visited the Blind Beggar public house to pay his respects.

The pub is where Ronnie Kray killed George Cornell with a single shot from a Luger pistol in 1966. If drinkers there did not know the Krays they knew someone that did — or so they said.

Mr Fraser said: "The Krays are lovely people. I loved and respected them. They were like the Robin Hoods of the East End, they helped people that were down-trodden."

Mr Fraser, who was also a member of the south London-based Richardson gang, said: "He was a marvellous man, he used to take my sister to prisons up and down the country to visit me inside. I could not speak too highly of him. The people they were alleged to have killed were rascals themselves — just like me. The only gripe I have have is that Ronnie never asked a lend of my gold-plated dentists' pliers."

Echoing the views of many in the area, he said it was wrong that the brothers had spent so long in prison. Others in the pub took the

view that if anyone got hurt "they must have deserved it".

One elderly gentleman, who refused to give his name, said he had known "the boys" since they were nine. "If I went into a pub and they were there there was always a drink behind the bar for me."

Outside the pub, Harry Smith, 63, who has lived in the East End all his life, said:



Fraser: "loved and respected Krays"

"The boys were a legend around here. A part of the East End way of life has now gone. It's quite a sad day in a way."

The only dissenting view came from a man out shopping, who said: "Everyone knows they were villains and how violent they could be but no one is going to say that, it would spoil the myth."



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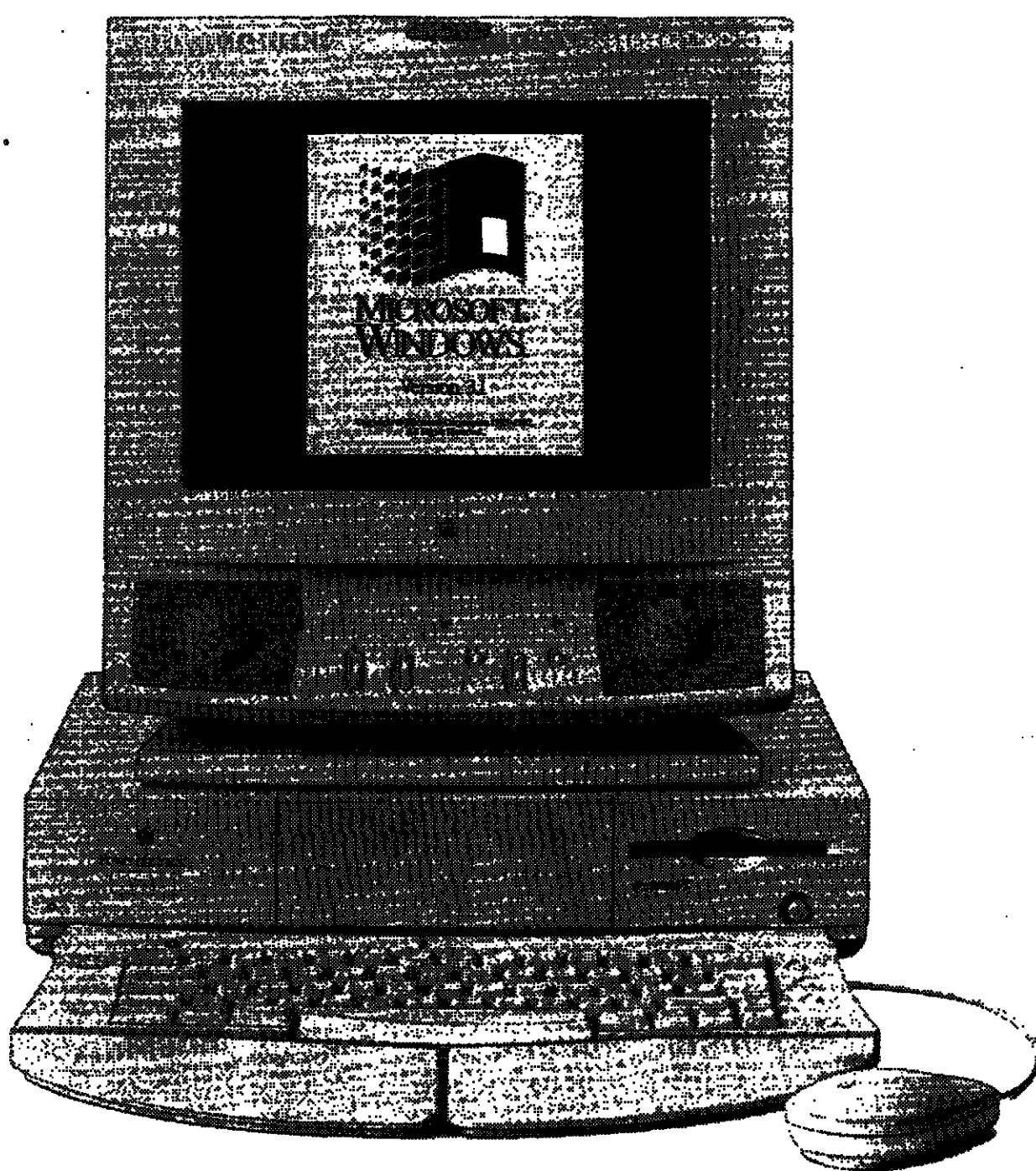
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Father
trying
son from

Court saves DJ's record collection

THE music collector Bob Harris has won a court battle to prevent the seizure of his record collection for a dispute with Bruno Brookes. A High Court judge has ruled that Harris's collection of 2,000 albums is not subject to seizure under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988. The judge found that Harris's collection was not a "business" and that the seizure would be disproportionate. Harris is now free to keep his collection.

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Tomorrow in
chance to win

Father shot dead trying to protect son from attackers

By KATE ALDERSON

A CHARITY worker was shot dead as he tried to protect his teenage son from two youths who were attacking them with sticks and bottles.

Joseph Clarke, 43, died from two chest wounds after he and his son Robert, 17, were set upon as they walked home from a Chinese takeaway shop in Wallsend, North Tyneside, on Thursday.

A witness said that Mr Clarke was pushed to the ground as he tried to protect his son and clubbed with the butt of a gun before being shot. After the killers escaped on foot, Robert ran through the streets shouting: "They have shot my dad, they've shot my dad."

He rushed home to tell his mother Joyce, 40, who ran into the street shouting her husband's name.

Yesterday police said there appeared to be no motive for the killing, although according to neighbours the Clarks had intervened in an argument between two youths and a taxi driver a few hundred yards from their home. They said that Robert was attacked after asking the driver if there was a problem.

One neighbour, who asked to remain anonymous, said: "I saw these two lads get out of a taxi then an argument started between them and the father and son. I could not hear what it was all about but suddenly

the two lads set about them, hitting them with bottles and sticks.

"Then there were two shots and the man fell to the ground. I was too stunned to move but other neighbours rushed out of their houses and tried to help."

Police contradicted this version, saying that there was no evidence that the Clarks had intervened in the dispute between the youths and the taxi driver. They said it appeared that only they and the two youths were involved.

Detective Chief Inspector Keith Felton, of Northumbria Police, said that 70 officers were searching for the killers.

He told a news conference that there was no evidence that the Clarks knew their attackers. "There is no reason to believe that Mr Clarke and his son were anything other than innocent bystanders. We have no motive for this."

"Mr Clarke appears to have been on his way home with his son when they met up with these other two youths and the incident occurred. The son was attacked and has been slightly injured but has suffered shock and we have been unable to interview him as yet." He said there had been another shooting in a nearby area within hours of the killing and he would be investigating any links between the two incidents.

Yesterday neighbours and friends were mourning the death of Mr Clarke, who had two other sons, Gareth, 12, and Simon, 8. He had recently begun a new job as a bus-driver and was lauded in his community for his charity work and sporting projects for children.

Les Fenwick, a close family friend of Mr Clarke, described him as a "smashing fellow" who was regarded as a pillar of the local community. "He did lots of work for charity and used to arrange football matches for the local kids. They adored him because he set up a special club for them."

"He had just got a new job working for the Blue Bus company as a driver and was over the moon. Joyce and the three lads are beside themselves. It comes to something when a good man is cold bloodedly executed for protecting his son."

June Irving, 45, a friend and neighbour, said: "Joe was a caring and decent man who would never dream of causing any kind of trouble. It could have happened to any of us. It is terrifying that there are maniacs like that walking around with guns."

Robert was given hospital treatment for minor injuries but has returned home, where the family is being guarded by armed police.



Pulling power: Julie Sutton, three, and her father Reg playing in Glasgow during Red Nose Day. Organisers were hoping to raise more than £8 million for Comic Relief from events around the country yesterday

Girls tell of sex attacks by 'hippy rapist'

THREE teenage girls have come forward after a serial sex attacker was featured on the BBC television programme *Crimewatch* (Kate Alderson writes). The "hippy rapist" is thought to have struck 19 times in the suburbs of east Leeds since early last month. Police believe he is responsible for indecent assaults on eight teenage girls and the rape of a 45-year-old woman.

After an appeal to help to track him

down was made on television on Thursday night, detectives received more than 100 telephone calls, including those of the three teenagers. They have told police they were sexually assaulted by a man in Leeds in February. A detective said: "It is obviously the same attacker. The ladies have all given the same description." The man is thought to be in his early twenties, has ginger hair and wears a kaffan.

The last attacks were on March 3,

when three sexual assaults and the rape were reported to police. DC Stephen Hutchinson of West Yorkshire Police said: "As yet we only have brief details from these callers but we are looking to link them into the inquiry." A 20-year-old man arrested and released on police bail last week had not been completely eliminated from the inquiry. "We haven't managed to eliminate him or prove that he is the man we want," DC Hutchinson said.

Court saves DJ's record collection

THE veteran music presenter Bob Harris saved his record collection from the threat of seizure for a second time in his dispute with fellow disc jockey Bruno Brookes.

A High Court judge lifted a court order that would have resulted in the Legal Aid Board laying claim to the collection to recoup £10,000 of costs incurred on Harris's behalf during the dispute.

The ruling is likely to be challenged by Brookes, who faces the prospect of having to pay the £10,000, plus a similar amount for the latest court hearing, even though Harris and his wife Trudie still owe him up to £150,000 for an unpaid debt.

In August, a court held that the music collection could not be seized by Brookes because it constituted Harris's "tools of his trade". The collection, which Brookes said was worth up to £60,000, includes about 2,000 albums, 5,000 CDs and countless singles.

Robber used boys to lure his victims

A ROBBER who roamed well-to-do areas of Surrey using two young boys to win the trust of motorists was jailed for 11 years by the Old Bailey yesterday.

Keith Williams, 33, lured his victims to remote parts of the Home Counties and threatened them with serious injury if they did not hand over valuables and property. Judge Goldstein said to him that the boys had "exhorted and glorified in the roles they played. Heaven alone knows what permanent damage you have done to them in terms of their involvement in crime."

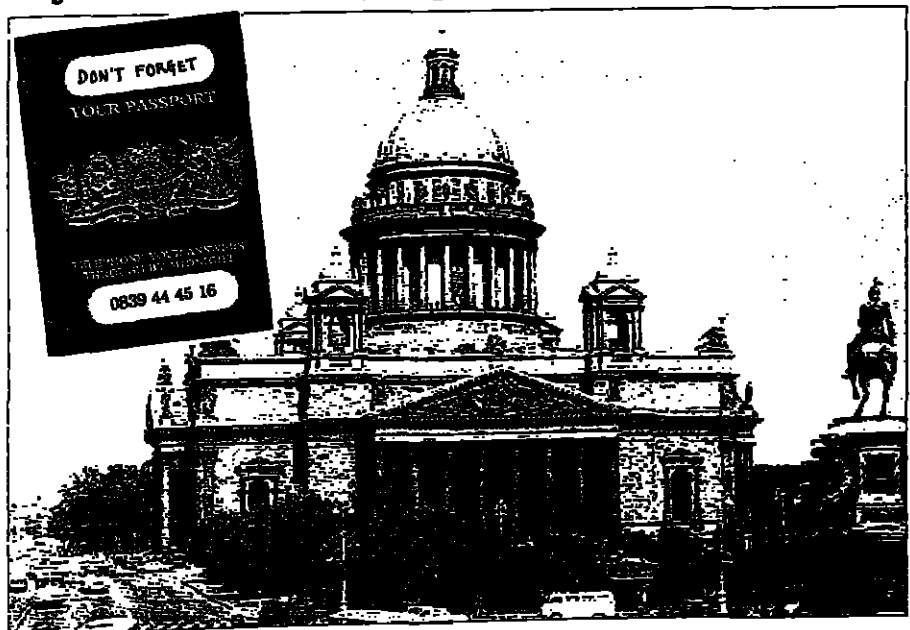
Rupert Pardoe, for the prosecution, said that Williams, of Tooting, south London, struck three times in September last year before his arrest. His accomplices were brothers aged 11 and 14. Williams's first target was Jonathan Matthews, 25, who was withdrawing money from a cashpoint in Epsom High Street when he noticed one of Williams's young charges leaning against

a nearby wall. Mr Matthews withdrew £10 and went to get into his car when Williams appeared and said: "What have you done with my kid?" When the astonished man replied: "I have never seen him in my life before," Williams threatened to "smash his face in". But then he adopted a less threatening manner and asked Matthews to help him look for the boys' "attacker".

"This was of course a complete subterfuge, but the man agreed, relieved that attention had been diverted from him and allowed them into his car," Mr Pardoe said. Mr Matthews was "led a merry dance" ending in grounds of a school, where Williams told him: "Hand over your wallet or I will slash you. I have a 6in knife and have already served time for manslaughter."

Williams admitted the three robberies and one charge of threatening behaviour. One of his accomplices is too young to be prosecuted. The other was dealt with by a juvenile court.

Don't forget your passport ... you could be flying to St Petersburg soon



Cathedral of the tsars: St Isaac's in the imperial city of St Petersburg

ENTER today's Don't Forget Your Passport competition and you could be taking off soon for St Petersburg, the city founded in 1703 by Peter the Great. The visit will include a visit to the exhibition of 74 "missing" paintings, seized from Germany at the end of the Second World War and then hidden, at the Hermitage art gallery.

This prize cannot be taken immediately because the exhibition does not open until April 1. Our three-night breaks are based at the five-star Hotel Marco Polo Nevsky Palace and include British Airways flights, transfers, breakfast and sightseeing.

Prices are from £690 per person, with single supplements from £160. For more details, ring Cox & Kings on 0171 873 5005.

HOW TO ENTER
The winner of yesterday's trip to Bristol was Mr Mike Threlknot, a teacher from Wincoburn, Avon. For a chance to win the St Petersburg holiday for two, ring 0839 44 45 16 before midnight tonight with your answers. The winner will be contacted on Monday. 3) Which monarch founded St Petersburg? 2) Name St Petersburg's most famous art gallery.

The winner will be drawn from all correct answers received by the time the lines close. Normal Times Newspapers competition rules apply. Calls cost 39p a minute (cheap rate) and 49p at all other times.

Tomorrow in The Sunday Times: the chance to win a 14-day tour of India

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'Moral repugnance' insufficient

Appeal court rejects council hunting ban

By MICHAEL HORNSBY, COUNTRYSIDE CORRESPONDENT

SOMERSET County Council acted beyond its legal powers when it banned deer hunting on land it owns in the Quantock Hills, the Court of Appeal ruled yesterday.

The judges decided by two to one that the "moral repugnance" felt by the council for the sport was insufficient grounds for prohibiting a lawful activity. Sir Thomas Bingham, the Master of the Rolls, sitting with Lord Justice Simon Brown and Lord Justice Swinton Thomas, described the case as "unusually elusive and difficult" and gave the council leave to appeal in the House of Lords.

Chris Clarke, the leader of the Liberal Democrat-controlled council, said he would have to consult with other local authorities to decide whether to appeal. The legal battle is estimated already to have cost the council up to £400,000.

William Fewings, senior joint master of the Quantock

Staghounds, said: "I am delighted by this judgment, though saddened by the waste of ratepayers' money. I can only hope that the council will now accept that enough is enough and will not take the matter any further."

The ruling had been awaited by some 35 other county councils and 100 district and metropolitan councils which have also banned hunting. They were claiming last night that the lack of unanimity among the judges increased the chances of an eventual decision in their favour.

The League Against Cruel Sports said the judgment was not a defeat because the judges had set out ground rules that enabled local authorities to introduce hunting bans lawfully in the future.

The case goes back to August 1993 when Somerset County Council voted by 26 to 22 in favour of banning hunting on a 148-acre stretch of land known as Over Stowey

Customs Common. Pro-hunting interests challenged the ban in the High Court, and in February of last year Mr Justice Laws ruled that the council had erred in basing its decision on the ethics, rather than the legality, of stag-hunting.

Sir Thomas Bingham and Lord Justice Swinton Thomas agreed with Mr Justice Laws, though with some qualifications. Sir Thomas said the court was concerned only with the technical question of whether the council's view that deer hunting was cruel was enough grounds to show that a ban would be to "the benefit, improvement or development of their area" and therefore sanctioned under the 1972 Local Government Act.

But Lord Justice Simon Brown argued that the council had been entitled to regard "hunting over the common as a cruel and socially undesirable activity inimical to the best interests of their area".

Shunned rottweiler regains affection

By EMMA WILKINS

THE rottweiler has regained its popularity to become one of the top 20 dogs in Britain. As 263 rottweilers and their owners arrived for the breed's show day at Crufts yesterday, the Kennel Club said responsible breeding over the past few years had re-established the rottweiler's position as a popular pet.

Adverse reaction to a series of savage attacks on children in the early 1990s saw the numbers of rottweilers registered in Britain drop from 10,500 in 1989 to 2,500 in 1993. Now, with 3,000 rottweilers registered at the Kennel Club, the breed is the 14th most popular in the country, ahead of the Dalmatian, the Border terrier and the poodle.

Robert Richards, a farmer from West Glamorgan, was showing his rottweiler Tasha at Crufts. The animal was rescued as a five-month-old puppy by the South Wales Rottweiler Rescue Centre and adopted by Mr Richards



Judging in one of the rottweiler classes, which featured 263 dogs, at the NEC in Birmingham yesterday

and his wife Anne. Tasha, which works on the farm with the family's border collies, is the best sheep catcher. But its methods are unusual, according to Mr Richards. "She never bares her teeth, but relies on her bodyweight

to pin a sheep down. Then she simply stands watch until I get there."

The Kennel Club said the breed's renaissance was due to sensible breeding and training. "There was a drastic decrease in popularity in

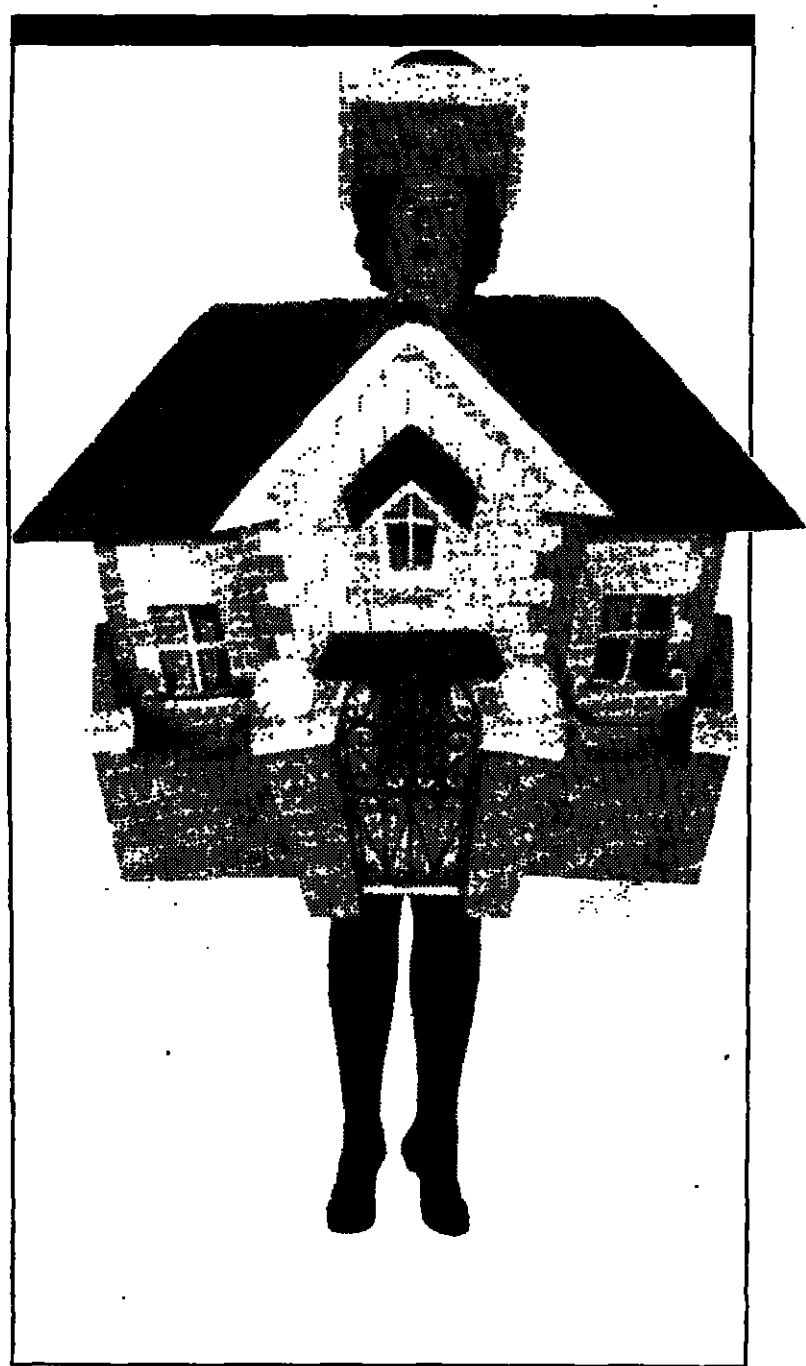
1990 which coincided with a spate of stories about children being attacked," Brian Leonard, Kennel Club spokesman, said.

"But in every such case we would argue that it was the owners who were at fault," he

added. "They tended to be bought as out-and-out guard dogs and in some cases encouraged to display ferocious and anti-social characteristics."

Results, page 20

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Ancient woodland escapes quarrying

By NICK NUTTALL, ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

A 6,000-YEAR-OLD woodland has been saved from the bulldozers after a dispute that highlights how growing pressure on industry is forcing a rethink of historical quarrying rights.

The Amey Roadstone Corporation (ARC), owned by Hanson and one of Britain's big aggregates and minerals companies, has announced that it is relinquishing rights to Asham Wood near Chantry, Somerset. It follows a long dispute with environmentalists and wildlife groups over quarrying throughout the Mendip Hills.

The 435-acre wood, much of which is a site of special scientific interest, is home to many species of moss, wild flowers and butterflies. But the site has also been subject to an interim development order giving ARC rights to bulldoze it to supply rock for construction and road-building.

A survey in 1993 indicated that more than 600 of these orders, dating back to the Second World War, are in force at sites across the country. Critics claim that they are outdated and should be revoked but minerals firms have argued they should remain.

Until now minerals companies have been reluctant to part with their historic mineral rights because they can boost balance sheets and share prices. But the move by ARC may signal a new mood among aggregates companies as planning permission for quarries becomes more fraught with appeals and objections.

Yesterday ARC said: "In view of the sensitive nature of this site we have decided to remove it from the equation." It added that it was also withdrawing its rights to another site, Tedbury Camp, and hoped to focus its activities in the East Mendips on Wharley quarry near Mells.

Gorman wins libel case over sale slur

TERESA GORMAN accepted substantial undisclosed libel damages yesterday over an article that claimed she made almost £1 million profit from a "scandalous sell-off" of council houses to top Tories by Westminster City Council.

Mrs Gorman and her husband Jim were at the High Court to hear her solicitor, Charlotte Watson, tell Mr Justice Morison that the *Daily Mirror* report in January 1994 was highly damaging to her professional and personal reputation.

She said the newspaper also suggested that the 63-year-old Conservative MP for Billericay took improper ad-



Gorman: awarded substantial damages

vantage of her public position by persuading the council to sell her the freehold of council houses within weeks of her election.

Ms Watson said that the Gormans bought one house in Lord North Street, Westminster, from a private individual at full market value 20 years ago. The purchase of the property had nothing to do with the right-to-buy policy introduced by Westminster Council in 1985 and bore no comparison with the allegations of misuse of council funds made by the District Auditor.

The publishers, MGN, agreed to pay Mrs Gorman damages and her legal costs.

Nuclear test veteran wins pension claim

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

A SERVICE veteran who claimed he contracted cancer after taking part in Britain's 1956 nuclear tests at Maralinga, South Australia, has won a 25-year campaign for a pension. The Pensions Appeal Tribunal ruled that the Rev Laurence Deverall's cancer was attributable to his service as an RAF medical orderly at Maralinga.

The Ministry of Defence, which faces hundreds of such claims for compensation, has always denied a link between radiation exposure and cancer. The ministry said the award would not affect its position.

The case is the first involving a nuclear test veteran in which radiation exposure has been accepted as the cause of cancer. Mr Deverall, 60, who emigrated from Woking, Surrey, to Canada 30 years ago, developed the disease in his right leg.

His leg was amputated in 1970 but the ministry rejected his claim for a pension. Nego-

tations will begin to determine the size of the pension. A former Royal Navy rating is to challenge the ministry's decision to discharge him for being a homosexual. John Beckett, 24, of Sheffield, was granted High Court permission yesterday to seek a judicial review. Two RAF personnel are similarly challenging dismissal.

WORD-WATCHING

The answers to the Word-watching puzzle are incorrect in some editions of today's Weekend section. The correct answers are: Golden Vanity (b) A ship in a ballad. "A ship I have got in the North Country." And the name of the ship is the Golden Vanity. Dog's nose (c) A mixed drink of beer with spirits or fortified wine. Prairie Oyster (d) A hangover cure mixed with tabasco or red pepper and Worcestershire sauce and raw egg. Bottle & Jug (e) An inn room entered by an outside door, where women could collect draught beer for their menfolk.

Irishmen cleared role in bomb

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Irishman cleared of role in IRA bomb plot

By EDWARD GORMAN

AN IRISHMAN accused of taking part in an IRA bombing campaign was freed yesterday after a jury failed to reach a verdict for a second time. The acquittal of Thomas McAuley brought to an end the only IRA-related trial remaining from before the loyalist and republican ceasefires in Northern Ireland.

Scotland Yard still has files open on several IRA bombings in Britain, including the Baltic Exchange and Bishopsgate blasts in the City, in which four people died, but there is no immediate prospect of another trial.

Taxpayers may never again have to foot the bill for the extensive security precautions taken at IRA trials, which have cost millions of pounds.

Mr McAuley, of Tottenham, north London, had denied conspiring with Gerard Mackin and Derek Doherty to cause explosions. The charges related to 12 bombs planted in north London over seven days in October 1993. No one was seriously injured but there was widespread disruption and damage.

Mackin and Doherty were each jailed for 25 years at the Old Bailey in October, but the jury could not agree a verdict on Mr McAuley. His retrial opened two weeks ago.

Yesterday, when the jury returned after eight hours of deliberation to announce that it could not reach a verdict, the prosecution offered no further evidence. Mr Justice Mac-

pherson of Chury said this was a "fair and reasonable course to take" and ordered a not-guilty verdict.

The prosecution had alleged that Mr McAuley, 38, allowed his flat, where Mackin and Doherty were staying, to be turned into a bomb factory and the headquarters for the campaign. When the police burst in after keeping the premises under surveillance, they found bombmaking equipment hidden under the bath sufficient to make ten bombs. They also discovered incendiary devices and a pistol.

Mr McAuley, a plasterer, maintained he knew nothing of the plot. He said he had been used by Mackin, an old friend from Belfast.

Mr McAuley, who had spent a year and a half on remand, emerged from the court holding his girlfriend's hand and speaking of his hopes for a special St Patrick's Day celebration.

"I am just glad to be free after 18 months of hell in custody," he said. "I am an innocent man and now there is nothing hanging over my head and I can start getting on with my life again."

Asked what his plans were for St Patrick's Day, he replied: "You couldn't pick a better day for this, could you? I shall be having a drink or two tonight."

IRA attacks in Britain still being investigated by Scotland Yard and MI5 include the bombing of the Royal Marines School of Music at Deal, Kent, in which 11 bandmen died; the litter-bin bombs in Warrington that killed two boys; the car bomb that killed the Tory MP Ian Gow; and mortar bomb attacks on Heathrow Airport and Downing Street.

The police are still hoping to bring back to Britain Nessim Quinnivan and Pearse McAuley, who escaped in 1991 from Brixton prison, where they were being held on charges of attempted murder.



McAuley: unaware of bomb factory in home

Sinn Fein talks, page 1

Furious fishermen besiege minister

By MICHAEL HORNSEY

WEST COUNTRY trawlermen trapped Michael Jack, the Fisheries Minister, inside a Plymouth fish market building yesterday. They let off orange flares and refused to open the gates until he answered their grievances about the European Union fisheries policy.

Police made a way through for Mr Jack but he was pelted with flour as he left. The fishermen denounced the Government for siding with the EU and Spain against Canada in the dispute over turbot fishing off Newfoundland.

At a meeting with Mr Jack inside the building, the men's leaders had called for Britain to withdraw from the fisheries policy and to assert control over its fish stocks in the same way as Canada.

Mr Jack announced the setting up of a panel, including fishermen, to review the operation of the fisheries policy. The trawlermen dismissed the initiative as a waste of time.

David Pessell, chairman of the Plymouth Trawler Owners Association, said: "We told the minister that every fisherman in Devon and Cornwall was appalled by the way he had treated Canada and by his eagerness to back the EU line."

The trawlermen told Mr Jack that the turbot dispute had confirmed their worst fears about the arrival next year of Spanish boats in their coastal waters. They cited Canadian allegations that the Spanish trawler *Estal* possessed a secret compartment for hiding illegal catches and carried nets designed to trap undersized fish.

From next January, up to 40 Spanish vessels will be allowed for the first time into the Irish Box, a 92,000-square-mile expanse of fish-rich waters that include most of the Bristol Channel. Spanish boats average 120ft in length, more than twice the size of West Country vessels.

Knight told to return stolen cash

Ronnie Knight, who was jailed for seven years for his part in the £6.4 million Security Express robbery, was ordered yesterday to return his share of the proceeds to the company. Knight admitted at the Old Bailey in January that he received £314,000 from the 1983 robbery.

Mr Justice Morison, in the High Court, said that he had no hesitation in entering judgment against Knight, who did not contest the claim. Knight fled to Spain after the robbery but returned voluntarily in May of last year.

Hatton's silence

Derek Hatton, former deputy leader of Liverpool council, offered no evidence in his defence at Manchester Crown Court on charges of stealing a horsebox and making a fraudulent insurance claim. Closing speeches in the trial will be made on Monday.

Meningitis death

Emily Birkett, aged nine months, of Gillingham, Kent, has died from meningococcal meningitis after a lung infection. Dr Vernon Hockuli, a meningitis specialist, said there were only three cases of that strain in the Medway area last year. None was fatal.

Stabbing plea

Stephen Wilkinson, 30, of Middlesbrough, admitted killing Nikki Conroy, 12, who was stabbed to death in her classroom last year. At a pre-trial hearing at Leeds Crown Court he admitted manslaughter but denied murder. He denied two charges of attempted murder.

Price apology

Sainsbury's is apologising to customers for the rapidly increasing price of tomatoes. The store chain blames a wet autumn for cutting supplies and pushing tomatoes from 55p to 85p a lb in the past week. Onion and cucumber prices have also risen.

Girl aged 5 revives her father from coma

By KATE ALDERSON

A GIRL aged five saved her diabetic father from a potentially fatal coma by feeding him sugar as he lay unconscious.

Georgia Cribbin saw her father, George, have a fit and collapse when his blood-sugar level dropped. She ran to the kitchen, found a bowl of sugar and spooned it into his mouth. Ten minutes later Mr Cribbin, 33, of Stanley, Co Durham, came round. He was amazed by his daughter's actions and said yesterday: "I could easily have died."

His wife Denise, 33, was shopping near by when he collapsed on Sunday. "We have never given Georgia any training," she said. "I normally give George an injection of glucose when he has problems. But I have had to give him sugar urgently a few times and she must have seen me do it and knew what she had to do."

A spokesman for the British Diabetic Association said that Georgia's action was "absolutely the right thing to do in the circumstances".



Georgia Cribbin and her father. She fed him with sugar when he fell into a coma

Poor care adds to baby deaths

By JEREMY LAURANCE, HEALTH SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

ALMOST half the deaths that occur among normal babies during or shortly after birth are attributable to serious deficiencies in their medical care, according to a government report. An investigation of 388 babies who died in 1993 after a full-term pregnancy found 42 per cent had received "seriously sub-optimal care".

The report of the Confidential Inquiry into Stillbirths and Deaths in Infancy, published yesterday, suggests that the demand for natural births and the resistance to medical help may be putting babies in danger at greater risk.

It says that in some cases doctors and midwifery staff were so poorly trained they could not recognise problems revealed by a foetal heart monitor, failed to monitor women in whom induction of labour had not worked, and did not know how to resuscitate babies who had stopped breathing.

Some babies died because the hospital switchboard was not working, delaying the summoning of specialist help, because there was no experienced paediatrician on call, or because staff were dealing

with situations beyond their competence.

More than 9,000 deaths of babies between 20 weeks' gestation and one year old were reported to the inquiry in 1993. The National Advisory Body, which guides the inquiry, decided to focus on deaths of normal babies during or after birth because they had most to teach the NHS in terms of standards of care.

"Parents now have understandably higher expectations that their baby will survive, particularly when there is no congenital abnormality or other complication to increase the risk," the report says.

Dr Rosalind Stanwell-Smith, secretary of the advisory body, said: "Care for most babies is better than it has ever been. The death rate has fallen rapidly. But parents who lose a well-formed baby at term deserve an investigation into the causes."

"Over 90 per cent of births need no intervention. But in the small percentage who do it is possible that the pendulum has swung too far in favour of natural birth. Women at high risk are tending not to get the interventions they need."

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"I'm sure Tony's only deaf when it suits him."

Colin Herbert, Director of Vina Ltd.

"Like when he owes you a fiver," continues Colin, Tony's boss, laughing.

Tony Morrissey is deaf, but lip reads and speaks with perfect clarity. Communication presents no problem to him. In fact, Tony speaks with perfect clarity rather a lot. Particularly when the subject is Liverpool football club.

Tony was the first person with a disability to be taken on by Colin Herbert at Vina, a brewing kit manufacturer in Liverpool.

From the start it was obvious that Tony's abilities far outweighed his disabilities. His attitude of "wanting to get the job done" together with his enthusiasm have gained him promotion to senior machine operator.

As a result of Tony's success there are now five people with disabilities working at Vina.

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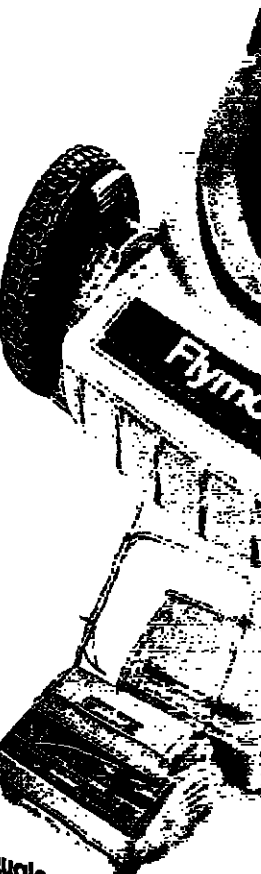


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Cash buyers move quickly for dream homes

By Sara McConnell and Morag Preston

PRICES at the top of the housing market are beginning to return to the levels of 1988. Property in such areas as the London suburb of Hampstead is so scarce that would-be buyers are selling their homes, banking the proceeds and renting so that they can make an offer immediately a house they like comes on the market.

Despite the gloomy monthly statistics on house sales, London agents say they have waiting lists of buyers for top properties. The practice of renting in readiness to buy is spreading beyond London to Surrey and other suburban areas round the capital but so far seems confined to the South East.

Areas of the North and Midlands, where prices did not fall as heavily as in the South, show increased business but no famine of upmarket family homes. Even in the areas that are seeing the most activity, people remain reluctant to put their properties on the market. They may have heard that house-hunters are still refusing to pay exorbitant prices, despite their eagerness to buy.

When Michael Portillo, the Employment Secretary, sold his four-bedroom cottage in Wingrave, Buckinghamshire, for £210,000, more than £100,000 below its 1988 price,

he was displaying the new realism. The property was on the market for three days.

Homes costing £1,000,000 to £2,000,000 are the norm in Hampstead, where the comedian Hugh Laurie and the actor Charles Dance are said to be seeking properties. Other potential Hampstead buyers have been on waiting lists for more than a year.

Jonathan Adams, sales manager at one estate agent's Hampstead office, said: "A good house will sell within a matter of days. We put a house on the market for £800,000 two weeks ago. Our competitors said that we had overestimated by at least £250,000. We have already had two asking-price offers. A lot of our buyers are families who have been renting for two years. But there's also always overseas interest."

In Dulwich, southeast London, an estate agent reports that prices are edging close to the level of 1988, before the slump began. In Dulwich village, where four-bedroom homes fetch £195,000 to £225,000, good properties are being snapped up as soon as they come on the market.

Another company has waiting lists for certain blocks in Hyde Park. Also in demand are family houses in Kensington in the £500,000 bracket.



ROBIN MAYES

Richard and Jacqueline Jenkins, left, have a pretty Chelsea home and are in search of another, but it has not been easy. "There's not a great deal of choice," according to Mr Jenkins, a 48-year-old commercial property lawyer. The couple are looking with the estate agents from whom they bought their present house six years ago for £1 million. "It's been a slow process. We know what we're looking for, a five-bedroom, south-facing house with a garden and double garage, in a quiet location. But people aren't putting their houses on the market." The Jenkins' house is not yet on the market, and the couple have decided to spend more time looking at what is available to decide whether they really need to move.



DES JENSON

Tamsin and Simon Martie, left, outside the house in Earlsfield, south London, that is to be their first home. They have just had their offer accepted, after more than a year of searching for the right property. "As soon as a house comes on the market, you have to put an offer in the next day in case the price goes up," said Mrs Martie, 25, who works at Pro Share, a body that represents small savers. For two years the couple have been renting at £540 a month. "We wanted to live in the Wandsworth area, and were looking at three-bedroom houses for £130,000-£140,000, with a southwest-facing garden, but they were getting snapped up. We visited at least 20 homes. It's been awful, but we've been lucky."

two-bedroom flats in Fulham at about £100,000 and family houses in Wimbledon village for around £400,000.

John Slatter, joint senior partner at an independent agent in the Surrey stockbroking area of Esher, said: "There is no shortage of willing buyers but they are finding a lack of choice because people are reluctant to sell."

"We had a classic this week when we had two substantial

houses in Weybridge, both on the market for over £500,000. One got an offer £15,000 below the asking price but he refused it. So he lost the sale and the buyer went to the other one."

It is a sign of scarcity that buyers are using agencies to search out homes. The fewer properties there are, the more time-consuming house-hunting becomes, a particular problem if both partners work. Buyers offered a choice

of one or two properties are more likely to hold back than if they are offered six or seven. Seeing only a couple of properties, neither of which exactly matches their requirements, persuades them that they should wait to see if something better comes on to the market. Mr Slatter said: "If they have been unable to test the water themselves, they won't listen to advice from us."

Buyers would have more

luck further north. Stephen Wolfenden, the northwest area executive of a building society's property arm, said: "We are a different market entirely, and there have been more sales since Christmas than for some time. People are making offers, and there has been some activity in the market, but most of it has been in the price range below £100,000."

"There is no scarcity of

houses in the executive market. There was competition from new homes with a part-exchange facility, but prices are very realistic, and there are bargains to be had. People at the top end of the market don't have to move, so they can pick and choose when an appropriate house comes on the market, then make a deal."

The Midlands looks an even better prospect. Chris Cullen, the same building society's

Midlands managing director, said: "Property is available, but it isn't being sold. Our West Bridgford office, which is in the most desirable area of south Nottingham, put eight houses on the market during February, none of which have sold. They were executive four-bedroom detached houses in excess of £100,000, but sales activity has dropped."

Property, Weekend page 13

Union chiefs say Lords ruling will add to injustice

By Philip Bassett, Industrial Editor

TRADE union leaders yesterday attacked a House of Lords ruling that will allow employers to pay less to workers who refuse to give up union membership.

Five law lords held in two test cases on Thursday that withholding pay rises from employees who refused to sign individual personal contracts giving up their union-based negotiating rights did not amount to unlawful action aimed at preventing or deterring them from being union members, or penalising them for their membership.

The ruling, which was welcomed by the Government and employers' bodies, is likely to increase the spread of individual work contracts between employers and employees, ignoring unions.

John Monks, General Secretary of the Trades Union Congress, who had attacked the Lords' decision as "extremely disappointing", said that no other European country would tolerate such discrimination. "This ruling legalises discrimination against union members that would cause an outcry if based on sex or race. The decision will only increase the injustice and insecurity felt by millions of people at work today."

John Edmonds, leader of the GMB general union, said the Lords decision was "extending discrimination into law". It would cause "suspicion and hostility" in the unions.

Vernon Hince, senior assistant general secretary of the RMT rail union, one of those directly involved in the case, said: "I am also concerned that this judgment could tighten still further the iniquitous anti-union laws in this country."

Harriet Harman, the Shadow Employment Secretary,

said the decision was only a "temporary setback". She said a future Labour government would give all employees the right to union recognition.

The law lords rejected a Court of Appeal decision two years ago that had supported employees' rights not to be penalised for belonging to a trade union. The employers involved, Associated Newspapers, publishers of the Daily Mail, and Associated British Ports, had appealed to the Lords against the ruling.

After the appeal court judgment, the Government moved



Monks critical of discrimination

to reverse its effect by amending a Bill then passing through the Commons so as to allow employers to resort to deterrent action in securing changes in their relationship with staff.

But the move was not retrospective, and so the employers involved in the test cases pressed on with their appeal. About 140 similar discrimination claims may be affected by the ruling.

The Government welcomed the judgment as "supportive" of its own legal position. The Confederation of British Industry said it "welcomed the clarification in the law".

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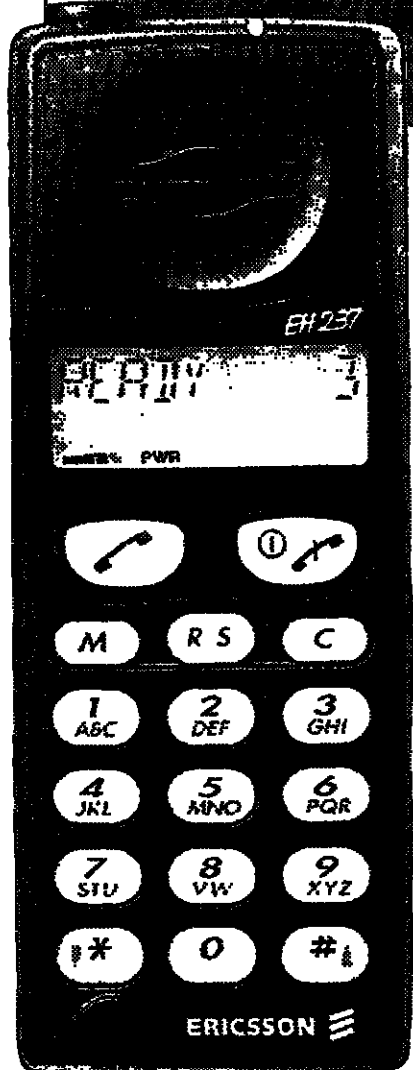
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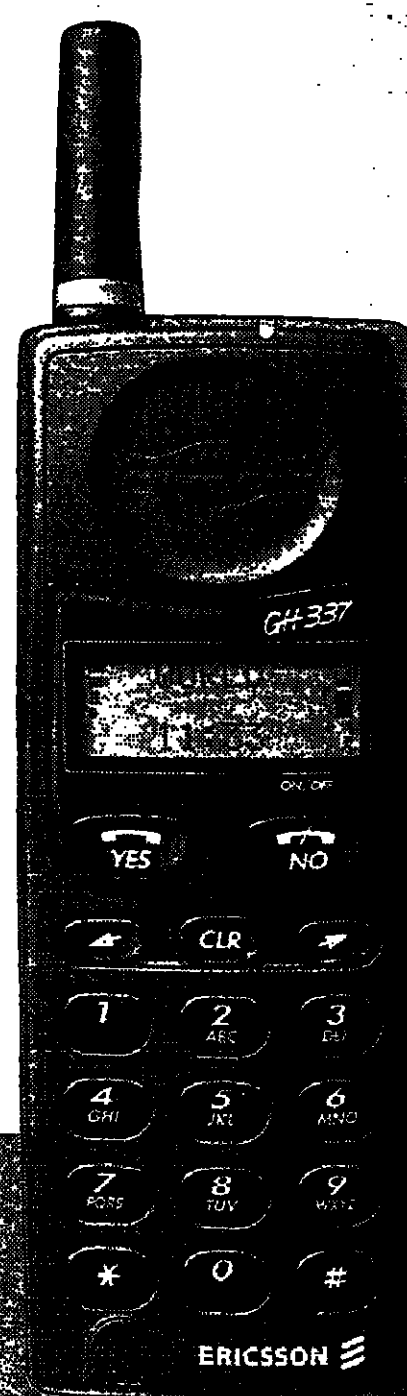
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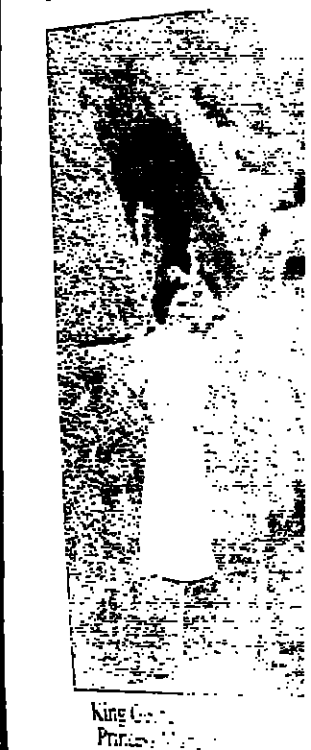
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Monarch's first visit since 1947 celebrates restoration of ties with post-apartheid South Africa

Queen expected to invest Mandela with high honour

Afrikaner extremists seek war apology

FROM MICHAEL HAMLYN
IN CAPE TOWN

THE Queen is thought likely to bestow a high honour on President Mandela next week when she begins her historic state visit to South Africa, the first time she has set foot in the country since she celebrated her 21st birthday in Cape Town in 1947.

Buckingham Palace is rating the trip as equal in importance to the Queen's previous epoch-making tours of China and Russia, but will not discuss the question of honours in advance, except to say that Mr Mandela is held in exceptional regard by the monarch.

Indications are that even an honorary knighthood, occasionally given to eminent foreigners and heads of state such as Ronald Reagan, the former American President, may not be sufficiently distinguished to mark the Queen's

esteem, which suggests that an even more exclusive decoration has been chosen for the President. The obvious possibility is the Order of Merit, whose only other current honorary member is Mother Teresa.

South Africa left the Commonwealth in 1961 over apartheid, and was readmitted last year, a cause of particular satisfaction to the Queen. She last met Mr Mandela at the Commonwealth summit in Harare, Zimbabwe, in 1991, and was represented at his inauguration last year by the Duke of Edinburgh.

Her six-day tour will take her to Cape Town, Port Elizabeth, Johannesburg, Pretoria and Durban, and will include visits to Soweto and five other townships. She will have talks with the President, Thabo Mbeki and F.W. de Klerk, the

Deputy Presidents, as well as a wide range of other politicians. She will also meet King Goodwill Zwelithini of the Zulus, and will hear Archbishop Desmond Tutu preach in Cape Town cathedral.

The tour is bound to evoke in the Queen memories of 1947, when as Princess Elizabeth she and her sister Princess Margaret accompanied their parents, King George VI and Queen Elizabeth, on a three-month tour to thank the outposts of empire for their contribution to the war effort. She will attend a reception at Cape Town city hall, where she delivered her 21st birthday broadcast on 21 April 1947, in which she promised: "I declare before you all that my whole life, whether it be long or short, shall be devoted to your service."

She will end her tour with a visit to a racecourse in Durban on the east coast, where her father donated a trophy in 1947 and had a race, still run, named after him; she will also donate a trophy for her own race, the Queen Elizabeth Novices' Chase.

As the 50th anniversary of VE Day approaches, South Africa's participation in two world wars, and the loss of 22,000 of her men, will not be ignored. The Queen will visit Commonwealth war graves in Cape Town, and will see a recently erected statue to a largely forgotten incident in the English Channel in 1917, in which 800 black South African servicemen drowned when their ship was in collision with another vessel.

The Queen will also open a Land Rover plant, a significant addition to British investment in the country, currently estimated to be worth about £10 billion.

Leading article, page 19

THE Royal Yacht Britannia sailed into Simonstown naval base yesterday, officially marking the start of South Africa's first royal season since 1947.

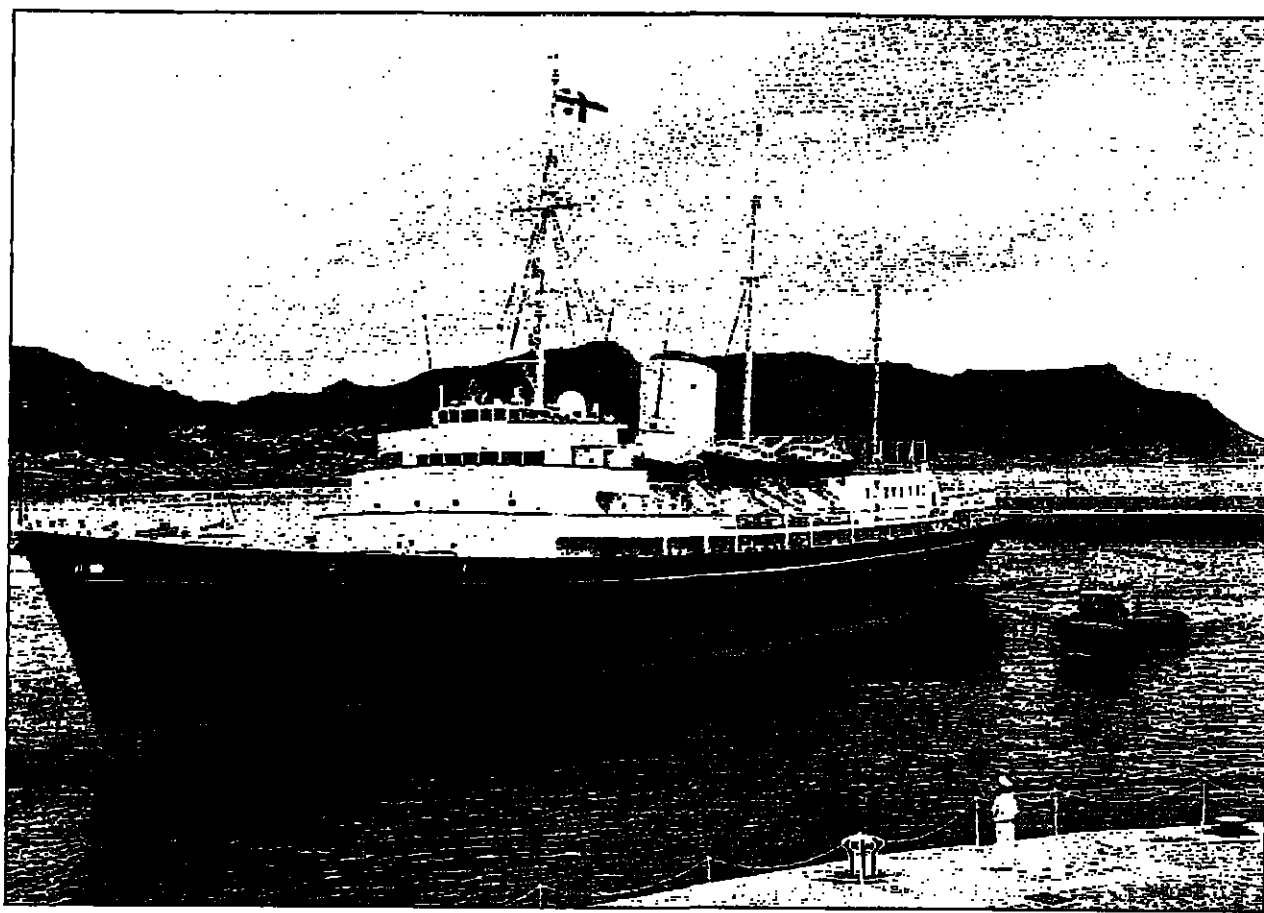
The Queen does not arrive until tomorrow, followed by the Duke of Edinburgh, who is joining her from his trip to Madagascar on behalf of the World Wide Fund for Nature.

The Queen's press secretary, briefing newsmen about the visit yesterday, emphasised the importance of the visit but declined to be drawn on whether there would be an apology to the Afrikaners for the Boer War and the tens of thousands of men, women and children who died in British concentration camps.

Robert van Tonder, of the tiny Boerestaat Party, expressed the hardline Afrikaner point of view, saying that "Mrs Elizabeth Windsor" was "definitely not welcome" in the Transvaal or the Orange Free State. He also deplored the fact that "the local British, as well as the new black English regime", had not yet rid themselves of their colonial attitudes since the Queen was being received with a far greater show of honour than other visiting heads of state.

British officials pointed out that the Queen would meet F.W. de Klerk, the Second Deputy President and leader of the National Party, the mainstream Afrikaner political group.

The royal spokesman also dodged a question about the demand of the Xhosa amaRabe tribe for the return of the head of their King Hintsa, killed in a frontier war in 1835. The tribespeople insist that his head was taken to London. But Sir Anthony Reeve, the British High Commissioner, maintained yesterday that there was no evidence that this was so.



The Royal Yacht Britannia at Simonstown yesterday for the first royal visit to South Africa in nearly 50 years

Cape leader preaches reconciliation

FROM INIGO GILMORE
IN CAPE TOWN

WHEN the Queen arrives here tomorrow the irony that she will be received in Cape Town by the country's only white provincial leader, Hennis Kriel, will not escape observers.

Barely a year ago it would have been unthinkable for a leading figure in the National Party, which built apartheid and pulled South Africa out of the Commonwealth, to welcome the Queen. National Party figures such as Mr Kriel were reviled as racist by the African National Congress.

But today the National Party is a pillar of democracy and South Africa is back in the Commonwealth. The nation's transition is reflected in the personal fortunes of the Western Cape leader, who surprised opponents by winning the premiership and emerging as a figure of reconciliation.



Kriel: once reviled as racist by the ANC

With his ready smile, humorous banter and generous girth it is hard to believe this is the man who last year fought a most bitterly contested provincial election against the now disgraced ANC Western Cape leader, Allan Boesak. The ANC tried to condemn Mr Kriel by focussing on his role

as Law and Order Minister and creator of the hated police Internal Stability Unit.

Critics wrote him off but he defied them all by winning 54 per cent of the vote. Since then Mr Kriel, 53, has attempted to debunk propaganda put out by the ANC during the campaign that a National Party victory in the province would mean a return to old-style apartheid. While sensitive about his knowledge of security force dirty tricks under apartheid, he is not afraid to go before the commission investigating such crimes.

He is convinced racial differences can be surmounted through leading by example: seven of his 11 provincial Cabinet members are non-whites. While the ANC has said it will discontinue power-sharing after the next national election, he plans to enshrine power-sharing in his provincial constitution.

For an Afrikaner who lost

both grandfathers in the Anglo-Boer war he is remarkably pro-British. He stands four-square behind President Mandela in nation-building. "The one thing I really admire is that [Mr Mandela] was in prison for 27 years and has come out with few grudges. He has really tried to do nation-building."

Although he campaigned against the ANC's grandiose Reconstruction and Development Programme for jobs and housing, since last year's elections Mr Kriel has adopted it where possible. He insists there must be a realistic approach: eliminating socio-economic backlogs in five years — as set out by the programme — was a political dream. He believes the only way to sustain social improvement is through economic growth. "It does not make sense to give houses to people in shacks if they cannot look after it or pay for the services."

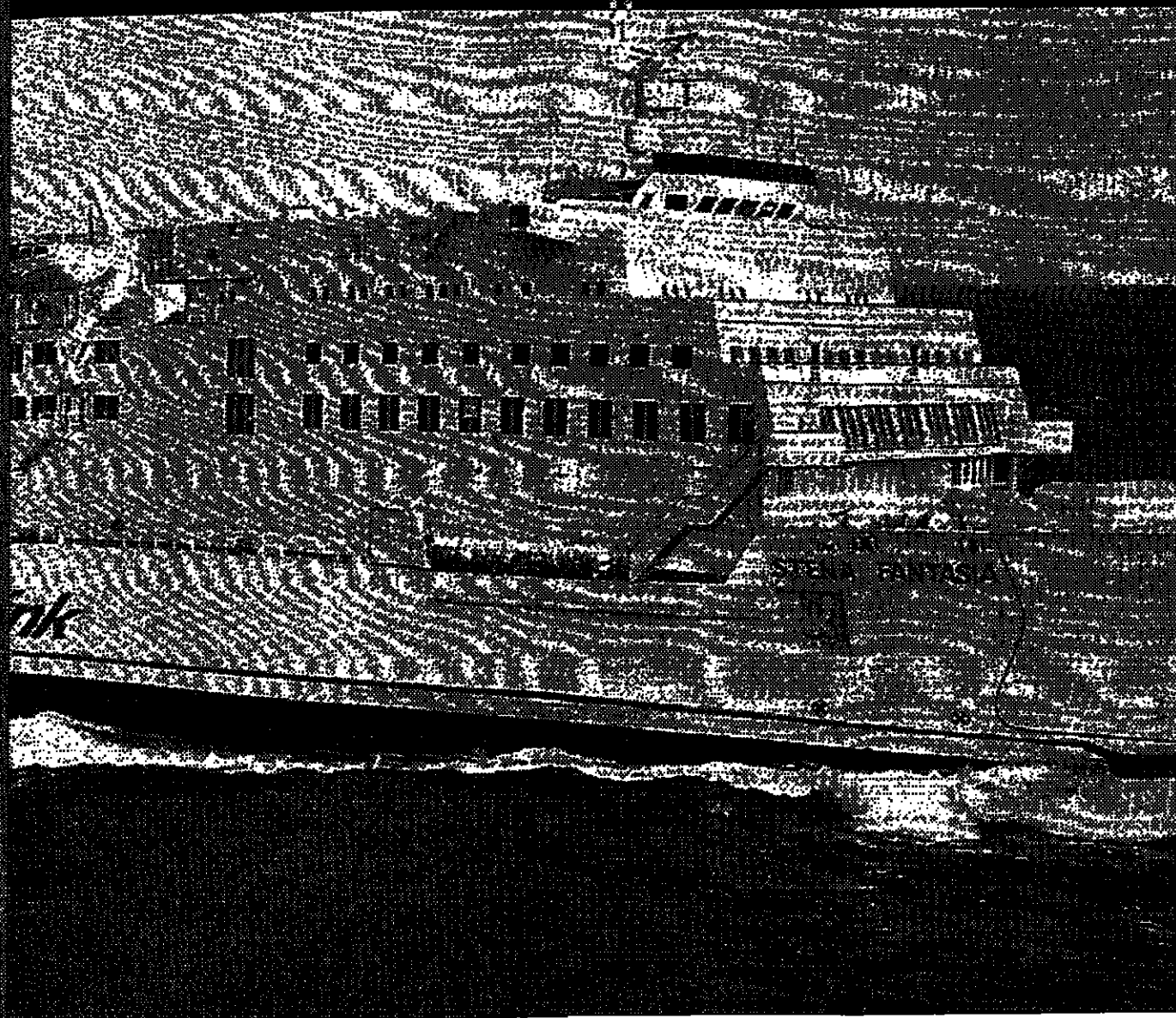


King George VI with Princess Elizabeth, right, and Princess Margaret in Natal during their 1947 visit

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Tyson's release and return of jaded Jordan launch sporting goldrush



Tyson: negotiating with potential adversaries

FROM BEN MACINTYRE
IN NEW YORK

THE fans are feverish, the promoters are gleeful and the advertisers are reaching for their cheque books at a prospect unique in sporting history: a simultaneous comeback by two of America's greatest athletes.

On March 23, Mike Tyson, the former heavyweight boxing champion, will emerge from the Indiana prison cell where he has spent the past three years in closely monitored captivity. By coincidence, his release may take place at the same moment that Michael Jordan, the world's most valuable athlete, makes his triumphant return to basketball.

Not since Muhammad Ali picked up his gloves again after a three-year exile from boxing for refusing to fight in the Vietnam War, has the American sporting world experienced such a frenzy of anticipation. But while the resurrection of the two Michaels is

■ The simultaneous comeback of two of America's greatest athletes presents a mouth-watering prospect for fans, promoters and sponsors

sure to be marked with a similar level of hype — and money — their departures from their respective sports could hardly have been more different.

Jordan, now 32, stepped away from the sport he had dominated 17 months ago, saying he was exhausted by the pressures of celebrity and wanted to play baseball, a sport he had not touched since his schooldays. Tyson, 28, was sent to prison after being convicted of raping a beauty pageant contestant in an Indianapolis hotel room.

Jordan quit with the plaudits ringing in ears and the highest scoring record in basketball history, while Tyson was banished in ignomi-

ny. Jordan has yet to declare when and on what terms he will return to the Chicago Bulls, the team he led to victory in the NBA for three consecutive years. Tyson's first adversary has yet to be named.

However, one thing can be predicted with absolute certainty: both sportsmen, their backers, commercial sponsors and a string of hangers-on, are going to make vast quantities of money.

Even while he played baseball, rather badly, for the Chicago White Sox, Jordan continued to attract huge crowds and to collect the \$4 million (\$2.5 million) salary he earned as basketball's greatest player. Add that to the \$30 million he makes from

numerous sponsorship deals, and Jordan is already paid twice as much as any other sportsman.

Wall Street has reacted to the news of his second coming by adding \$2.3 billion to the market value of the five companies promoted by Jordan. If he returns to the Bulls, advertisers predict, he can effectively name his own price to sponsors.

His only rival in terms of profitability is the other Michael, whose anticipated return to the ring has also prompted some heavyweight commercial predictions. Last week Riddick Bowe spent an hour in the Indiana Youth Centre with Tyson, discussing a boxing match worth an estimated \$120 million.

Similar figures are being suggested for a bout between Tyson and 46-year-old champion George Foreman. Frank Bruno, Lennox Lewis and even Buster Douglas, who knocked out Tyson in February 1990, are all tipped as possible future opponents.

The symbolism of the double return of two black athletes has not escaped observers: "It means that two black men are coming back and picking their respective sports off the canvas," observed Spike Lee, the filmmaker.

Jordan and Tyson have already been hailed as saviours of their sports, indeed, of American sport in general. The ruinous and continuing baseball strike, the loss of half the hockey season and a lacklustre football season have left American sports fans desperate for entertainment and reassurance. For years Jordan and Tyson defined their sports and in their absence, both basketball and boxing have seemed dowdy and uninspiring.

Even before Tyson's jail door swings open and Jordan formally announces his return, America has had one of its most cherished beliefs reaffirmed: you cannot keep a good (or even a bad) man down.



Jordan: can name his price to sponsors

Republicans pick off Clinton's pet project with cuts

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

IN THEIR push for a budget showdown, Republicans have picked off President Clinton's proudest achievement, his domestic version of the Peace Corps.

By targeting AmeriCorps, the Republicans were following President Kennedy's old maxim of "don't get mad, get even". Democrats complained yesterday that in destroying a Clinton campaign promise, the Republicans were inflicting heartache on the programme's young volunteers and the poor people they are trying to help.

Republicans are intent on setting scores from their 40 years as a minority party, when Democrats routinely ignored their wishes, and want to remove any item that Mr Clinton could use to his credit in running for re-election next year. To rub in their power, Republicans gave Democrats the disagreeable choice of voting to cut money for former military servicemen or AmeriCorps. Inevitably, veterans' benefits survived.

AmeriCorps was established six months ago and has taken on 20,000 of the 100,000

who applied. They are engaged in hundreds of community projects that include anti-drug work, teaching ghetto children, immunising infants and building low-cost housing. For a year's service, volunteers receive a small living allowance and nearly \$5,000 (£3,150) to help them pay for their education.

Republicans in the House of Representatives chopped 75 per cent of the \$416 million AmeriCorps budget, which Congress had already voted to spend this year. The cut was among a package of reductions of \$17 billion which also hit public housing, summer jobs for teenagers, aid for the arts and public broadcasting. The cuts from the current budget were just a sample of a promised decrease of nearly \$200 billion next year.

"This cut kills AmeriCorps," Eli Segal, the programme's director, said. Volunteers would be sent home immediately and pledges for next year set aside. Mr Clinton's only remaining option is to veto the Bill in the belief that Republicans will be unable to muster the two-thirds major-

ity needed in both the House and Senate to over-ride him.

The episode illustrates how deeply the Republicans' Contract With America could impinge on government spending, especially for the poor, young and elderly. "You ain't seen nothing yet," John Kasich, chairman of the House Budget Committee, said. He promised even more cuts in May as Republicans set their sights on reducing taxes next year and balancing the federal budget within seven years.

□ Anita Hill quits: Anita Hill, whose accusations against prospective judge Clarence Thomas focused attention on sexual harassment at work, has told colleagues she will resign as a law professor from the University of Oklahoma. After fiercely denying her allegations in 1991, he was confirmed as a justice of the US Supreme Court.

Dr Hill has been on a sabbatical for more than a year, writing two books, and could not be reached for comment. No reason was given for her departure.



Defence and prosecution lawyers, left, study a map of O.J. Simpson's estate on which Detective Philip Vannatter, right, points out where a blood-stained leather glove was found.

The glove has been the focus of tense and possibly pivotal testimony in the former footballer's murder trial in Los Angeles (Giles Whittell writes). The glove first made world

headlines when Detective Mark Fuhrman gave evidence at last year's preliminary hearing that he had stumbled on it in an alley behind a guest house in Mr Simpson's Brent-

wood garden the morning after the murders of Nicole Brown Simpson and her friend Ronald Goldman and had realised that it matched one found at the murder scene.

Yale rues lost gift as price of academic freedom

BY BEN MACINTYRE

THE decision by Texas billionaire Lee Bass to withdraw a \$20-million (£13 million) gift to Yale University to promote the study of Western civilisation has provoked condemnation and support in equal measure.

Mr Bass, a Yale graduate, made the gift in 1991 on the

understanding that it would be spent to encourage the study of Western art, politics and philosophy. But some faculty members demanded that the money be used to create a more "multicultural" history syllabus.

After four years of uncertainty and confusion, Mr Bass lost patience and requested the right to approve the appoint-

ment of teachers for the new course. Richard Levin, the Yale President, rejected that demand and last week he agreed to return the money, with interest, while maintaining that the delay in creating the course "had nothing to do with its content".

In the ensuing debate, Mr Bass has been attacked by some for attempting to manip-

ulate the substance of Yale's history courses and praised by others for taking a stand against faculty ideologues determined to promote the history of women and minorities. "Political correctness has even overcome greed, for alumni contributions, proving what a potent force dogmatism has become in academia," thundered *The Boston Herald*. Some observers, however, defended Yale and criticised Mr Bass for trying to influence not just what was taught, but who would teach history at the university. Even Harold Bloom, a traditionalist Yale history professor, said he was scandalised by Mr Bass's demands.

Leading article, page 19

Mobile mutt goes for 1,600-mile walkies

FROM ASSOCIATED PRESS
IN LONG ISLAND

BRIAN HARRINGTON'S dog usually makes a nightly jaunt around the neighbourhood, but his latest excursion took him a bit off the beaten path — 1,600 miles off, in fact.

Mr Harrington and his family were heartbroken when Buddy, a three-year-old German Shepherd-collie mix, did not

turn up after his evening run last Saturday. Four days later, Buddy was found bounding along a highway in Fort Collins, Colorado.

"Nobody really believed it," Mr Harrington said. "Very rarely did he go further away than a quick trip around the block."

How the wayward hound made his way to Colorado remains a mystery. Mr Harrington speculated that Buddy may

have been picked up by a passing trucker or motorist on a highway about a quarter of a mile from his home.

Buddy was taken to an animal welfare society in Fort Collins. Employees called a phone number on Buddy's collar tag and reached an animal shelter in Port Washington, New York, which notified the Harringtons.

A pet food company has offered to transport the dog back home.

Six held over 'link to bomb'

Islamabad: Six men with alleged links to Ramzi Yousef, the man accused of masterminding the 1993 bombing of the World Trade Centre in New York which killed six people and injured 1,000, have been arrested in Pakistan.

The three Sudanese, an Iranian, a Pakistani, and a naturalised Pakistani born in Syria, were detained in Peshawar. (AP)

Airport shelled

Dubai: The commander of a military camp in Aden ordered his troops to shell the city's airport in protest at his transfer to Sanaa, the Yemeni capital, the Arabic daily *Al-Hayat* reported. (AFP)

Sea food

Auckland: Four men from Papua New Guinea drifted almost 2,000 miles across the South Pacific in a dinghy for 89 days. They supplemented food stocks with coconuts floating past. (AFP)

Suicide toll

Apia: Suicides in Western Samoa, which has one of the highest rates in the world, rose to 34 last year, the most since 1982, an aid group said. Western Samoa has a population of 160,000. (AFP)

Stuck pig

Seoul: South Korea bowed to public pressure and reversed a ban on toothpicks at restaurants. The ban followed reports that pigs eating leftovers were injured by discarded toothpicks. (Reuters)



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Mysterious death linked to Andreotti trial amid protest at TV portrayal of gangsters

Doubt grows over suicide of senior anti-Mafia agent

ROME FILE

by JOHN PHILLIPS



MILLIONS of Italians watched Leoluca Orlando, the crusading Mayor of Palermo, insinuate on television that Maresciallo Antonino Lombardo, a senior Sicilian policeman, was colluding with the Mafia.

Nine days later Lombardo shot himself. Politicians from across the spectrum, and the officer's commanders, attacked Signor Orlando, blaming him for Lombardo's suicide.

In a last letter, however, Lombardo, 49, made no reference to Signor Orlando nor to the programme. *Tempo Reale*, or its anchorman, Michele Santoro, Rossella, the policeman's daughter, believes the truth about his death is being covered up.

"My father did not commit suicide," she says, "he was killed by the state." In his note Lombardo, a police officer for 31 years, said: "The key to my deligitimisation is in the American journals." He was referring to two trips

he made to the United States last year to interview Gaetano "Don Tano" Badalamenti, the former godfather of the Sicilian Cosa Nostra, who is serving a 45-year sentence in a US prison after escaping from Sicily when his rival Salvatore "Toto" Riina launched a vicious gangland war and took control of the island's underworld.

Lombardo knew Badalamenti from when he had run the carabinieri station in the town of Terrasini, then the centre of Don Tano's crime empire. After his last visit to the godfather in December, he told his superiors that he was confident Badalamenti would return to Italy and testify at the trial of Giulio

Andreotti, the former Christian Democrat Prime Minister, who is accused of being the Mafia's political protector in Rome for decades.

However, three days after Signor Orlando's televised outburst, one of Lombardo's Mafia informers was murdered. Judicial sources said Cosa Nostra warning not to pursue his efforts to persuade Badalamenti to return to Italy. Hours before he shot himself, Lombardo met senior carabinieri and apparently asked for protection for his family. The appeal evidently fell on deaf ears.

"I have killed myself... principally not to put in danger my wife and children," he wrote in his note.

Police sources speculate that Lombardo was denied protection for his family because Badalamenti could make public embarrassing information about carabinieri mediation between right-wing plotters and the Mafia during preparations for a failed neo-fascist coup in 1970 staged in 1970 by a far-right aristocrat, Prince Junio Borghese.

Whatever the truth, his death and a recent upsurge in Mafia murders that has claimed 18 lives in two months have put the Italian state on the defensive. Two years ago politicians declared that the battle against organised crime was won following the arrest of Riina, whose capture Lombardo played a



Orlando: accused senior police officer of colluding with Mafia

decisive part. Lombardo's relatives admit that he was a sympathiser of the neo-fascist Italian Social Movement (MSI) who found the activities in Terrasini of Signor Orlando's anti-Mafia party La Rete (Network) distasteful.

Now the Mayor of Palermo has joined Lombardo's family in demanding expla-

nations from the carabinieri commander, General Luigi Federici. "I ask him who loaded Lombardo's pistol," Signor Orlando said. "Let him tell the final truth, if Lombardo was put on a false trail or covered for someone. He should be a commander and not the instrument of an ignoble attempt to silence me."

Channels lure viewers with the grotesque

THE Archbishop of Milan, Cardinal Carlo Martini, has asked Italians to turn off their television sets during the holy period of Lent but private and public channels continue to try to outdo each other's sensational programmes.

One eccentric impresario, Toni Binarelli, caused a storm this week when he placed an empty pistol to his head at peak viewing time on Canale 5's Sunday variety programme *Domenica In* and pulled the trigger repeatedly. The Vatican newspaper, *L'Osservatore Romano*, warned of the danger of adolescents copying the stunt with loaded guns.

Another showman, Glucas Castella, caused further controversy when he was filmed lying in a tank full of poisonous snakes. An anchorwoman, Gabriella Cartucci, angered television watchdog groups by jumping 150ft from a crane on to a "mattress" of parked cars.

The staple diet of Italian viewers is not all trash, however. Ten million people are estimated to have watched the seventh series of *La Piovra* (The Octopus), the gripping drama about the Mafia, that was screened this month in spite of protests by right-wing parties who claimed it portrayed "all Sicilians as Mafiosi". Michele Placido, who played the part of the incorruptible Inspector Catani in the first two series of the saga, said: "All that is required is that the screenplay not make Cosa Nostra appear invincible. In this moment there is a political vacuum. The people do not feel represented. Perhaps citizens look for enlightenment in fiction."

Spies break cover over film

Riccardo Malpica, the former head of Italy's domestic intelligence service, accused with six colleagues of stealing 60 billion lire (£24 million) from secret funds, has taken umbrage at a forthcoming film on the activities of Italian spies. Lawyers for Signor Malpica are trying

seeking an injunction to prevent *Segreto di Stato* (State Secret) being released next week. Its director, Giuseppe Ferrara, a veteran of a series of movies about the dark sides of Italian life, denies that the premiere will be postponed, despite having received anonymous threats.

German war exhibition shows army shot civilians

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN

THE reputation of the Second World War German army was at stake yesterday as parliamentary deputies argued inconclusively over whether soldiers who deserted during the war were cowards, criminals or heroes.

The point of the debate was whether to rehabilitate some 50,000 Germans sentenced to death by military courts for fleeing from their units. The row between the ruling Christian Democrats, who oppose a general rehabilitation, and the opposition came at an acutely sensitive moment.

An exhibition in Hamburg has brought together scores of grainy photographs, many of which were buried in Russian state archives, as well as diaries and written orders which show unambiguously that the Wehrmacht, the wartime German army, murdered Jews, other civilians and Russian prisoners of war.

This has shattered a post-war myth. While the Nazi party, the SS and the Gestapo were justly branded criminal organisations, the popular view has been that the Wehrmacht was largely an

honourable force: its soldiers fought hard and did their duty; its officers tried to keep their distance from the Nazis and in a few cases worked against Hitler.

However, the exhibition documents show that the army regarded Jews as partisans and killed them out of hand in the march eastwards. Infantry regiment 691, for

"The documents on display shatter a post-war myth that the Wehrmacht was largely an honourable force"

example, reported in 1941 the shooting of 19 Jews as a reprisal for a shot "apparently" fired by a Jew. Even a superficial reading of the military command reports shows that the army was killing unarmed civilians. The Central Army Group reported in 1941 that it had killed 80,000 "partisans" for a loss of only

3,000 men; either the army performed a military miracle, or it was shooting civilians. The Wehrmacht training syllabus carried the slogan: "Wherever there are partisans there are Jews, wherever there are Jews there are partisans."

The army's economic inspectorate reported on July 23, 1941, during the attack on the Soviet Union, that "several thousands of suspicious Jews have been shot. As a result, Jews have become ready to help with work."

The most telling exhibits are the photographs taken by Wehrmacht cameramen, strictly against orders. They show soldiers pulling on the beards of elderly Jews, people digging their own graves, cars piled high with bodies and roadside gallows. Women and children could be defined as spies and therefore shot out of hand.

The exhibition is difficult to accept for many former soldiers and their descendants. In the visitor's book someone has written: "Father, where were you?" Many German veterans say they knew nothing of the crimes against Jews.

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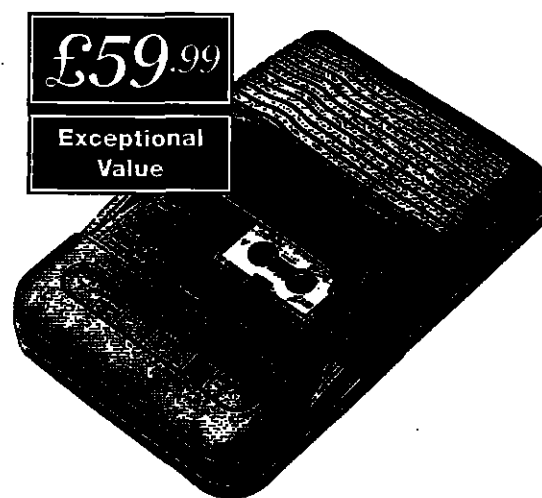
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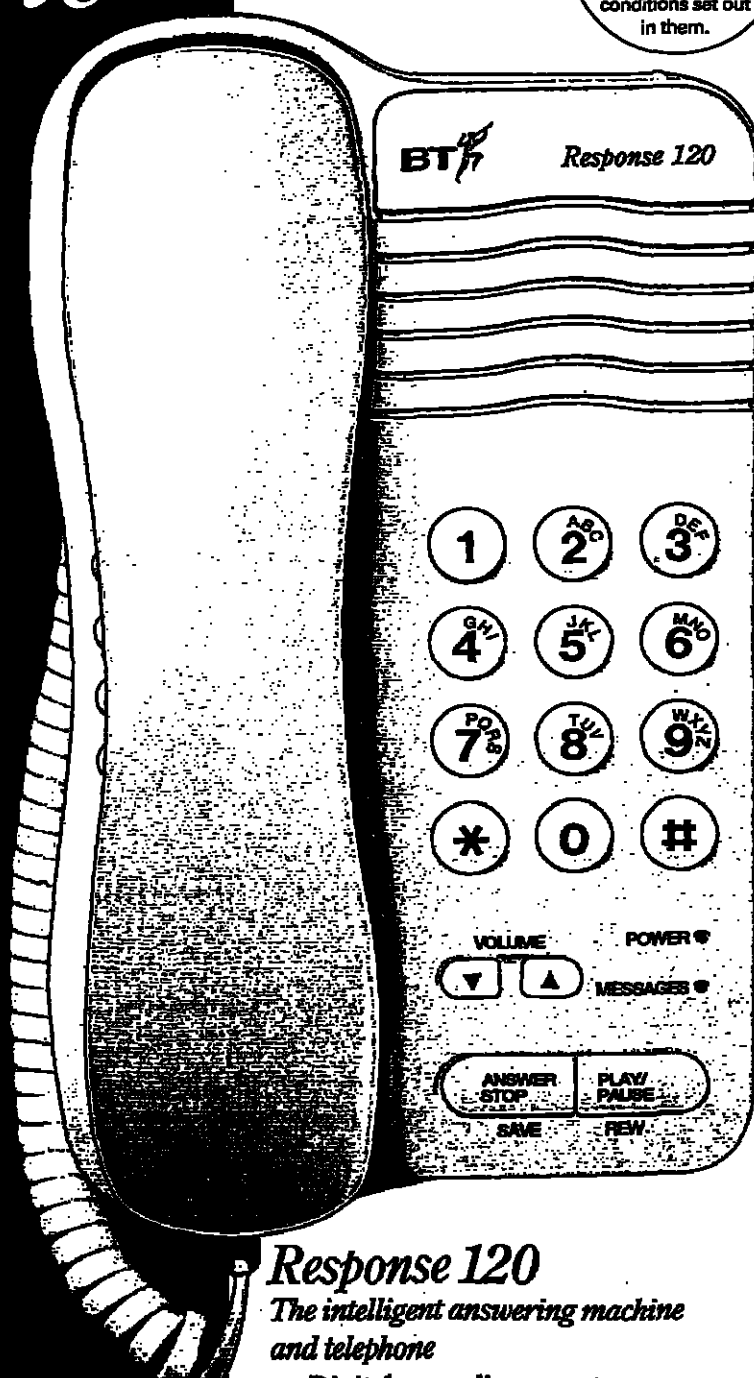


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French taxpayers 'will not bear cost of bank losses'

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN PARIS

THE row over the debacle of Crédit Lyonnais seems likely to intensify after the state-controlled bank yesterday reported a breathtaking loss of 12 billion francs (£1.5 billion) in 1994 alone and the Government launched its second operation in two years to save its sinking financial flagship.

Edmond Alphandéry, the Finance Minister, said that the taxpayer would not be asked to pay for the complicated rescue package. This was organised after losses last year of 6.9 billion francs and an expected overall "hole" of 50 billion francs in the balance sheet, equivalent to about £100 per head of the French population. M. Alphandéry's claim has prompted disbelief among a public which has finally been alerted to the magnitude of the disaster.

Philippe de Villiers, the right-wing presidential candidate, said the complicated plan, which involves the guarantee of 130 billion francs worth of bad and good debt, was a "game of pass the parcel designed to make the taxpayer swallow the medicine". *Le Nouvel Economiste* magazine yesterday called it a "total flop".

The four-year restructuring plan was expected to enable the 126-year-old bank "to rid itself of the burden of past losses" in order to be ready for privatisation at the turn of the

century. M. Alphandéry said. The scheme, which will cut 100 billion francs from the bank's balance sheet, will include heavy cuts in running costs and staffing.

Coming amid the presidential campaign, the public agency of Europe's biggest bank has embarrassed Edouard Balladur, the Prime Minister and candidate. He said: "It's a great French bank, active throughout the world. We must save it."

The banking mess has fuelled the crusade by Jacques Chirac, the Gaullist presidential favourite, against the technocratic elite who, he says, have hijacked France.

Word this week that the bank faced total losses of 50 billion francs prompted angry demands from parliament for



Alphandéry: four-year plan to rescue bank

an investigation into the activities of Jean-Yves Haberer, the former Treasury director, who led the bank on a wild spending spree in the late 1980s. M. Haberer poured money into grand schemes that were designed to enhance French prestige.

Some of the vanished money went to follies such as the takeover of Hollywood's MGM studios by Giancarlo Parretti, the Italian financier. Over a billion francs went to Bernard Tapie, the left-wing tycoon and politician who was declared bankrupt in January.

Attacking the failure so far to examine the disaster, François d'Aubert, head of a parliamentary commission on Crédit Lyonnais, said he was horrified by the scale of the bank's losses and called for a special parliamentary debate.

Outlining the rescue, M. Alphandéry said the goal was to return Crédit Lyonnais to the ranks of profitable banks without distorting competition in European banking. The Brussels Commission, which approved the last bail-out, is investigating the new package but is expected to approve it.

Scandal widens: Robert Pandraud, a former Gaullist Cabinet minister, yesterday became the latest politician to be placed under investigation in a widening corruption scandal linked to illicit party funding. (Reuters)



The Infanta Elena and Jaime de Marichalar, left, who marry today, with King Juan Carlos and Queen Sofia

Seville blossoms with the scent of Spanish royal wedding pageantry

FROM EDWARD OWEN IN MADRID

ASSAILED by government corruption scandals and suffering the highest unemployment in Europe, Spaniards can restore briefly a degree of their natural pride and bonhomie today when a spectacular royal wedding takes place in Seville.

Before an estimated television audience of 800 million viewers around the world, the Infanta Elena, 31, the elder daughter of King Juan Carlos and Queen Sofia, second in line to the throne, will marry Jaime de Marichalar, an aristocratic banker, also 31. They will make their vows in front of 1,500 guests at Seville cathedral.

Although the King, who heads the most modern of ruling royal families, had demanded there should be no ostentation during the ceremony and subsequent celebrations, he could not stop the

people of Seville bedecking their lovely city in the manner to which they are accustomed during their Easter week parades. Balconies and windows are festooned with flowers, flags and family heirlooms. Nor could the King discourage friends, his subjects and institutions from presenting the couple with lavish presents, with enough cutlery and glassware to equip a small luxury hotel.

During the week, the excitement has been building up in the Andalusian capital as an army of workers has planted thousands of petunias, hoisted pennants, resurfaced roads, polished fountains and oiled 18th century carriages.

Pickpockets have been eyeing some of the 4,000 police and civil guards who have mounted Operation Pearl to protect some 300 members of European royal families, vari-

ous Arab potentates, grandees of Spain, 2,000 journalists and 70,000 members of the public who will throng the streets.

At the last royal wedding in Spain, in 1906, an anarchist threw a bomb in the direction of the carriage of Alfonso XIII and his bride, Queen Ena, a granddaughter of Queen Victoria, splashing her wedding dress with blood. The explosion killed 24 people and injured 80.

If all is sweetness outdoors in Seville with the scent of orange blossom from trees in the city centre, the same cannot be said inside the cathedral. Carlos Amigo, the Archbishop of Seville, has been angered by Pilar Miró, a Spanish film director, who has installed 30 cameras and miles of cables for Spanish state television's coverage of the event. He told her she had

damaged the Gothic fabric. However, with cameras hidden in flower arrangements by the altar, she said: "The only thing that worries me is to avoid errors like those at the wedding of Lady Di when the most emotional moment could not be seen because the Archbishop got in the way."

The Prince of Wales is flying in for the day and other guests will include Queen Beatrix of Holland, Queen Paola of Belgium, Queen Noor of Jordan, and Prince Rainier of Monaco.

The honeymoon destination is a secret but the Infanta Elena, who is qualified to teach handicapped children, and Señor de Marichalar, will live in Paris where he works for a bank. The King has bestowed the non-hereditary title of Duchess of Lago on his daughter, and her husband thereby becomes a duke.

EUROPEAN SUMMARY

SAS chief yields to Serbs

Sarajevo: The head of Britain's special forces, accompanied by three SAS bodyguards, was held up by four gunmen as he travelled through the Serb-held Sarajevo suburb of Ilidza and forced to surrender the group's one weapon (Malcolm Brabant writes). The unnamed brigadier, known only as Cedric, and his companions were forced to wait by the roadside until they were picked up by a French armoured vehicle. The incident happened last weekend but was suppressed by the United Nations. Serb banditry has increased recently.

Russian arms plane seized

Lisbon: Portugal has seized a Russian aircraft that landed to refuel while carrying arms clandestinely from Slovakia to South America, officials said yesterday. An air force spokesman said the Antonov 124 transport plane was held at Lajes airfield in the mid-Atlantic Azores Islands. A Western diplomatic source said he believed the plane was carrying Soviet-built 120mm multiple rocket launchers to Ecuador. (Reuters)

Coup crushed in Azerbaijan

Moscow: The coup attempt against President Aliyev of Azerbaijan has been crushed and its leader killed, the Government in Baku announced (Anatoli Lieven writes). The attack on bases of the rebel paramilitary police unit came after a five-day stand-off with the rebels, led by Rovshan Javadov, the Deputy Interior Minister.

Ukraine acts to weaken Crimea

Moscow: Ukraine's parliament yesterday abolished the constitution and presidency of the autonomous republic of Crimea (Richard Beeston writes). It also voted to begin criminal proceedings against the President Meshkov of Crimea, who wants reunification with Russia.

Talks stall in fishing dispute

FROM WOLFGANG MÜNCHAU IN BRUSSELS

TEMPERS in the dispute over Greenland halibut flared again yesterday after Canadian diplomats abruptly ended talks with the European Union, apparently to seek guidance from the Ottawa Government.

The Canadian decision came after only one day of bilateral negotiations, which followed the release of the Spanish trawler *Estazi*: its capture by Canadian patrol boats in international waters set off

the crisis. The Europeans made the release of the trawler a precondition for talks.

EU officials yesterday reacted with "dismay" at what they view as Canadian stalling tactics. They were particularly angered by Canada's decision not to participate in a meeting of the North-West Atlantic Fisheries Organisation (Nafco), which was due to be held in Brussels next week. The Canadians said they had requested that the meeting be postponed. Jacques Roy, the Canadian Ambassador to the EU, said: "At this stage of the negotia-

tions, it is essential for our team to consult with Canadian authorities." He said the two sides had made "significant progress on conservation issues" during one day of talks, but declined to give details.

In an angry response, the European Commission said yesterday that the central issue remained the illegality of Canada's seizure of the *Estazi*. One of the key demands by the EU is that Ottawa should repeal domestic legislation, under which it seized the vessel outside its own jurisdiction.

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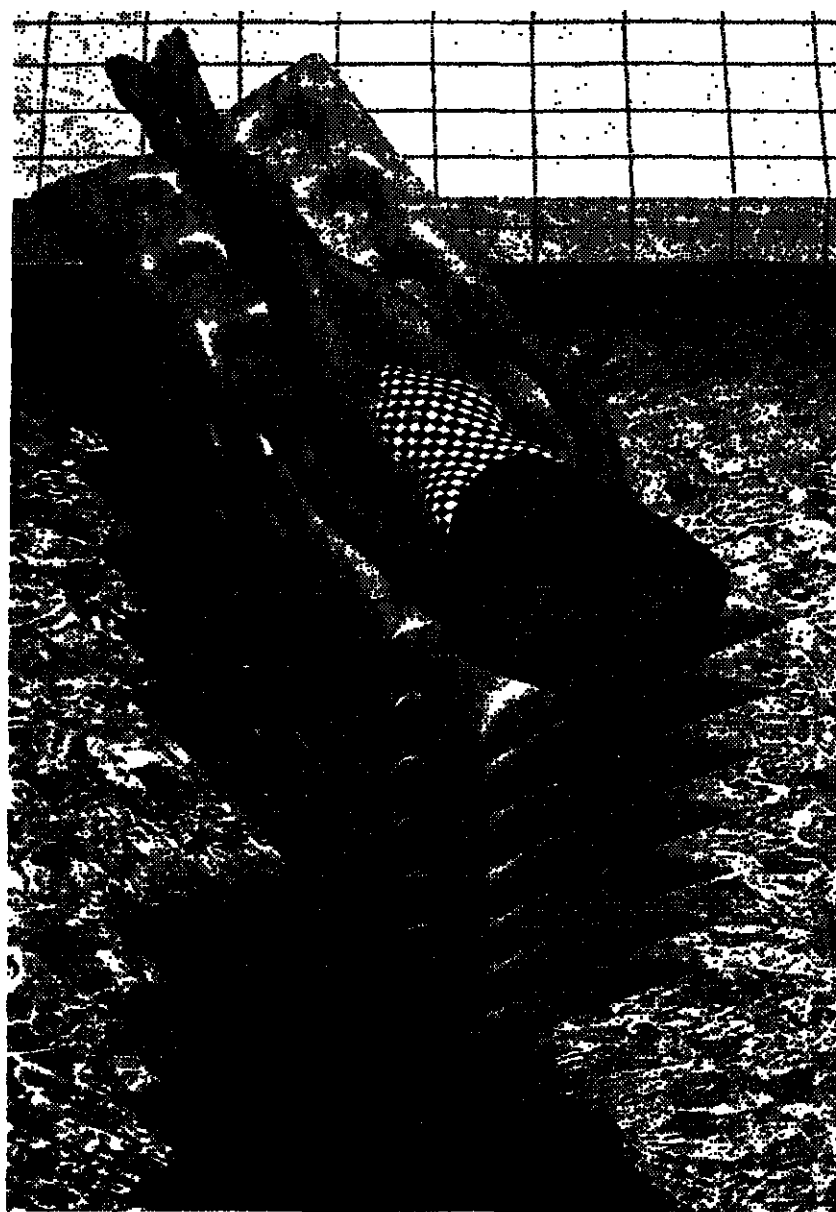
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حکومت الاصل

China's parliament delivers 'slap in face' for leader

FROM JAMES PRINGLE IN PEKING AND JONATHAN MIRSKY IN HONG KONG

SOMETHING seismic is rumbling in Chinese politics. At the National People's Congress yesterday a surprisingly high number of delegates voted against the government's choice of vice premier in charge of agriculture while statements from two senior leaders may foreshadow post-Deng hope for China's citizens and Hong Kong.

Nearly one third of the members of China's normally compliant parliament yesterday rejected the nominee for a new agriculture czar charged with feeding 1.2 billion Chinese.

In polling by electronic ballot — since 1993 voting in the National People's Congress, hitherto regarded as a rubber-stamp parliament, has been secret — for Jiang Chunyun, a former Shandong governor, 605 deputies voted against, 391 abstained and 10 did not vote, while 1,746 voted in favour; this was an unusually low 63 per cent support rate.

Some foreign diplomats here saw this as a "slap in the face" for Jiang Zemin, the new Chinese leader, described in party propaganda as the "core" of the third generation Chinese leadership following Mao and Mr Deng. Other envoys said that at least Jiang Zemin, the Chinese Communist Party chief — no relation of Jiang Chunyun — had at least lost considerable face by the high opposition vote.

The most astonishing speech of the week was delivered by Tian Jiyun, one of the longest serving members of

the seven-member Standing Committee of the Politburo, the country's supreme ruling body.

Speaking to delegates from Guangdong, Mr Tian electrified his audience by suggesting the hitherto unthinkable: competitive elections for China's vice-premiers and for the premiership itself. If this happened, the congress would no longer deserve its usual description of "rubber-stamp".

Delegates had already expressed their dislike of having two new vice-premiers simply because they are political allies of President Jiang. Indeed, yesterday many of them cast votes against the "nominees".

Mr Tian recognised that rubber-stamping is going out of vogue. "These current elections have a bit of mindlessness to them," he said. He suggested that candidates for national office borrow a method already used in Guangdong provincial politics and make speeches to the congress so that "delegates can see if it is a real person or not".

In a rare example of Chinese political irony, Mr Tian observed: "If there is no system of competition then those who are capable will never attain office, while the fools will never step down." He suggested that the National People's Congress, of which he is vice-chairman, "lacked the guts for real political reform".

Earlier Mr Tian was reported to have been stunned when Wu Bo, a delegate from Guangdong, accused the Party of ignoring the congress and

"treating it as a decoration." More acutely still, Mr Wu described some delegates as "old and senile with ossified minds which can no longer comprehend a problem". These retired officials treated the congress as a "convalescent home," he said.

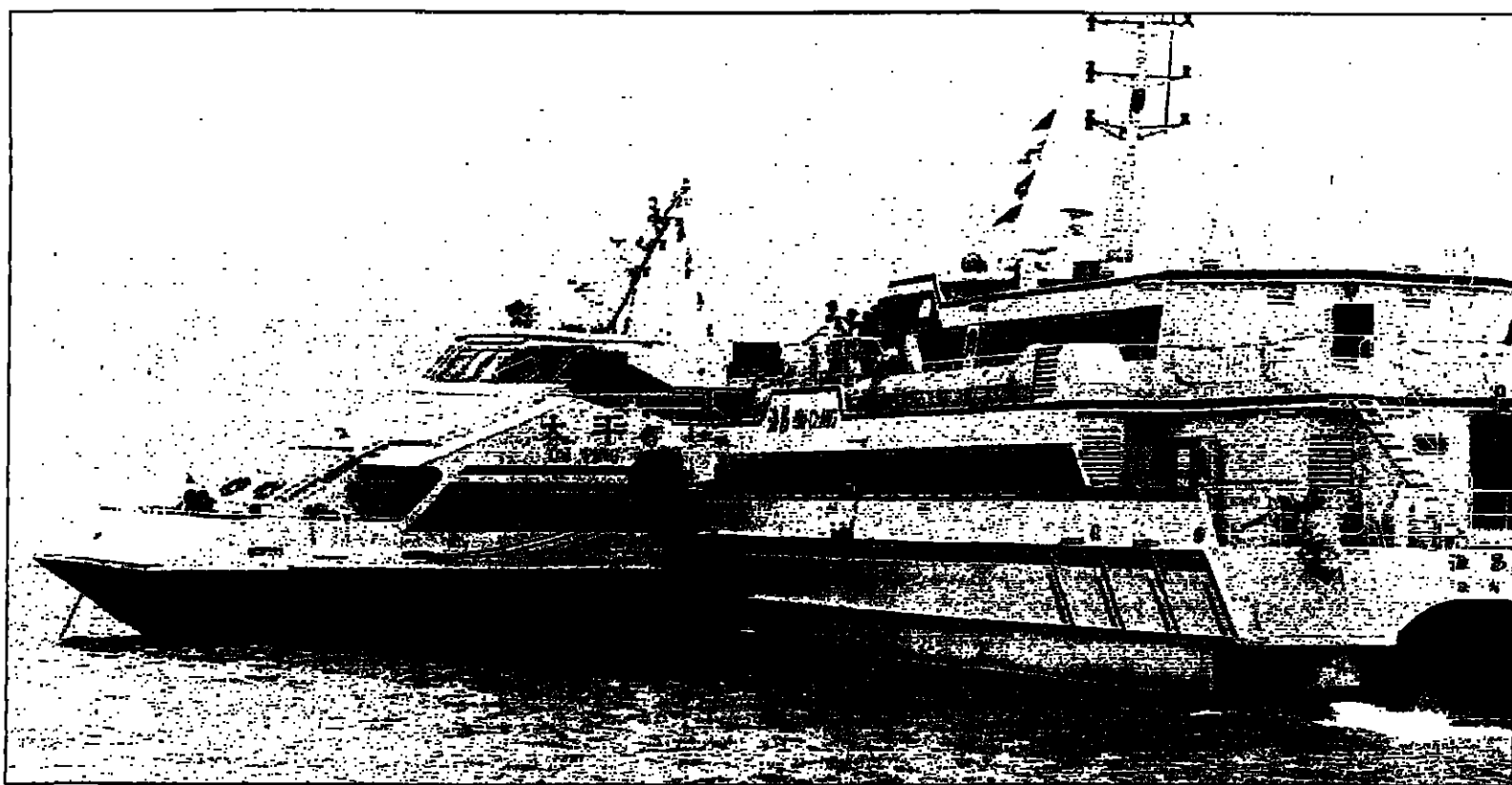
Almost as extraordinary, and more immediately encouraging for Hong Kong, was an earlier speech by Li Ruihuan, another Politburo Standing Committee member, to congress members from the colony. Usually when Chinese leaders discuss uneasiness in Hong Kong about the 1997 change in sovereignty they blame it on "black hands" in the colony and on unnamed international conspirators.

Mr Li simply said that he had heard from friends that "Hong Kong people are concerned — or nervous, uncertain and worried about the post-1997 era." Mr Li not only conceded that "the matter is fraught with uncertainty", mistakes in Peking's approach to the colony: inflexibility, too much propaganda and too much explanation. "People outside have the perception that too many commercials indicate poor sales... why else are they putting out so many commercials?"

A carpenter by trade and a bit of a character among the other top leaders, Mr Li wondered if China was "competent" to run Hong Kong. In many cases, he said, "if you don't understand something, you will be unaware of what makes it valuable and it will be difficult to keep it intact".

Mr Tian's and Mr Li's hopeful speeches were in stark contrast to the response two days ago of the Foreign Ministry spokesman who was asked about the nomination for the Nobel Prize of Wei Jingsheng, China's most famous dissident, who has disappeared into police custody for almost a year without public charge or trial.

The spokesman referred to "the so-called Nobel Prize," which no Chinese living in China has ever won, and to Mr Wei as "a condemned criminal".



Two Chinese-operated catamaran ferries carrying more than 150 passengers collide in Hong Kong harbour yesterday, injuring 11 people. One of the vessels, bound for Tai Ping in Guangdong province, started to leak after the incident.

Violence 'out of control' in Nicaragua

BY MARIANNE DARCH

NICARAGUAN officials are unable to bring murderers to justice amid spiralling civil unrest and economic hardship, according to a leading human rights campaigner.

The number of human rights abuses in Nicaragua almost doubled last year, according to Dr Vilma Núñez, president of the Nicaraguan Centre for Human Rights and former vice-president of the supreme court of Nicaragua.

"The situation is deteriorating in Nicaragua," he told the Central American Human Rights Committee in London. "No mechanisms exist to prevent forces acting with impunity and there is no judicial power to punish perpetrators."

Last year 367 people were murdered and reports of human rights abuses were up 48.7 per cent, according to figures compiled by the human rights centre. Political kidnappings, assassination and the destruction of property are now rife.

Nepal's communist leader seeks help from Britain

BY TUNKU VARADARAJAN AND MICHAEL BINYON

MAN MOHAN ADHIKARI, the Nepalese Prime Minister, has asked Britain for help in stabilising his country's fragile democracy.

Speaking in London on a private visit following the Copenhagen social summit, he called for assistance in the drafting of a Bill of Rights and in compensating those who had suffered human rights violations before the upheaval that led to the end of Nepal's absolute monarchy. He also wanted help in the introduction of voter identity cards and measures to ensure greater fairness and protection from intimidation in future elections.

Mr Adhikari, who as the country's first Communist Prime Minister has just completed 100 days in office, outlined the priorities of his Government. These include the encouragement of the private sector, land reform and the linking of Nepal's economy to the "global reality", without which, he said, the economy would remain backward.

He added that it was impossible for the state to manage

every aspect of the economy, and called for investment from the developed world, particularly from Britain.

Explaining the apparent contradiction between his proclaimed communism and his faith in market forces, he said that Nepal's communists had to accommodate the country's conditions. When they had slavishly followed other foreign communists, they failed to win any support at home. "Sometimes people ask, 'How come a communist is talking this way?' I say: 'This is reality. We can't ignore it.'"

The Prime Minister, who spent some years in prison for his pro-democracy agitation, was careful to emphasise that King Birendra was an integral part of the country's democratic constitution, which he said was now modelled on Westminster.

Multiparty democracy and respect for the monarchy were basic tenets of the new constitution of Nepal, the world's only Hindu kingdom. Referring to the difficulties of his landlocked country in balancing relations with its two powerful neighbours, In-

dia and China, Mr Adhikari underlined his insistence on his country's full sovereignty. In the past this has often led to friction with India, especially over access to the sea and free overland transit to Calcutta's port.

Wryly admitting that "special relations" with Delhi were still delicate, he said that often the more intimate relationship between neighbours was the greater the chance of misunderstanding.

At present Nepal is locked in an argument with India over the construction of a huge dam, funded by the World Bank and Western donors, on the border between the two countries.

Mr Adhikari said relations with Britain were excellent and he praised British government help for retired Gurkha soldiers and schemes to help them buy land in their villages.

Clearly proud of the Gurkhas' martial tradition, he said that his Government would be willing to contribute its soldiers to any United Nations peacekeeping operation if it was asked to do so.

Manila mourns after maid is hanged

FROM ABBY TAN IN MANILA

TELEVISION newscasters wore black ribbons as Manila grieved for Flor Contemplacion, the maid hanged in Singapore yesterday for a double murder.

A statement issued by the presidential palace said the execution meant that more effort must be made to protect the rights of more than two million contract workers abroad.

The Philippine and Singaporean Governments took the brunt of public anger over the hanging, fanned by domestic satellite television. Two leading channels devoted 24-hour live coverage on the fate of the maid, who went to the gallows after Singapore rejected calls for clemency. Her body is to be shipped home to Manila today.

Television and newspaper coverage depicted the Singapore Government as heartless and insisted that Contemplacion was innocent. Manila was accused of failing to help the maid.



Jiang Chunyun: new agriculture chief



President Jiang: faced surprising opposition



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Harold Pinter recalls his literary roots, declaiming poetry at passing buses — and a memorable question from a six-year-old

And thank you, Hackney library

I can't say that there was a very strong literary tradition in my family. My mother enjoyed reading the novels of A. J. Cronin and Arnold Bennett and my father (who left the house at 7am and returned at 7pm, working as a jobbing tailor) liked Westerns but there were very few books about the house. This was of course also due to the fact that we depended entirely upon libraries. Nobody could afford to buy books.

However, when I first had a poem published in a magazine called *Poetry London* my parents were quite pleased. I published the poem with my name spelt PINTA as one of my aunts was convinced that we came from a distinguished Portuguese family, the Da Pintas. This has never been confirmed, nor do I know whether such a family ever existed. The whole thing seemed to be in quite violent conflict with my understanding that all four of my grandparents came from Odessa, or at least Hungary, or perhaps even Poland.

There was tentative speculation that Pinta became Pinter in the course of flight from the Spanish Inquisition but whether they had a Spanish Inquisition in Portugal no one quite seemed to know, at least in Hackney, where we lived. Anyway I found the Pinta spelling quite attractive, although I didn't go as far as the "da". And I dropped the whole idea shortly afterwards.

There was only one member of my family who appeared to be at all well-off, my great-uncle, Uncle Coleman, who was "in business". He always wore felt carpet-slippers and a skullcap at home and was a very courteous man. My father proposed that I show Uncle Coleman my poem in *Poetry London* when we next went to tea. I agreed, with some misgivings. My poem was called *New Year in the Midlands* and was to do with a young actor's vagabond life in rep. It was heavily influenced by Dylan Thomas. It contained the following lines:

"This is the shine, the powder and blood and here am I, Straddled, eale always in one Whitbread Ale town, Or such."

My father and I sat in the room in silence, while Uncle Coleman read this poem. When he reached those lines he stopped, looked over the magazine at us and said: "Whitbread shares are doing very well at the moment. Take my tip." That was in 1950, when I was 20. My early reading was rather shapeless and disjointed, mainly, I believe, to do with the dislocation of a childhood in wartime. I was

evacuated twice (once to Cornwall, where I more or less saw the sea for the first time), went to a number of schools and kept returning to London to more bombs, flying bombs and rockets. It wasn't a very conducive atmosphere for reading. But I finally settled at Hackney Downs Grammar School in late 1944 and made up for lost time. Hackney also had a great public library and there I discovered Joyce, Lawrence, Dostoevsky, Hemingway, Virginia Woolf, Rimbaud, Yeats, etc.

Some years later, in, I think, 1951, having read an extract from Beckett's *Watt* in a magazine called *Irish Writing*, I looked for books by Beckett in library after library — with no success. Eventually I unearthed one — his first novel, *Murphy*. It had been hanging about Bermondsey Public Reserve Library since 1938. I concluded that interest in Beckett was low and decided to keep it — on an extended loan, as it were. I still have it.

In 1944 I met Joseph Brearley, who came to the school to teach English. Joe Brearley was a tall Yorkshireman who suffered from malaria, had been torpedoed at sea in the war and possessed a passionate enthusiasm for English poetry



Harold Pinter, at 15, in major-general's uniform as *Macbeth*

and dramatic literature. There had been no drama in the school when he arrived in 1945 but before we knew where we were he announced that he would do a production of *Macbeth* and, pointing at me in class, said: "And you, Pinter, will play Macbeth." "Me, sir?" I said. "Yes. You," he said.

I was 15 and I did play Macbeth, in modern dress, wearing the uniform of a major-general. I was so pleased with this uniform that I wore it on the 38 bus to go home to tea after the dress rehearsal. Old

ladies smiled at me. The bus conductor looked at me and said: "Well, I don't know what to charge you." My parents gave me the *Collected Plays of Shakespeare* to mark the occasion. I also managed to save up to buy a copy of *Ulysses*, which I placed on the bookshelf in the living room. My father told me to take it off the shelf. He said he wouldn't have a book like that in the room where my mother served dinner.

Joe Brearley and I became close friends. We embarked on a series of long walks, which continued for years, starting from Hackney Downs, up to Springfield Park, along the river Lea, back up Lea Bridge Road, past Clapton Pond, through Mare Street to Bethnal Green. Shakespeare dominated our lives at that time (I mean the lives of my friends and me) but the revelation which Joe Brearley brought with him was John Webster. On our walks, we would declare into the wind, at the passing trolley-buses or indeed to the passers-by, nuggets of Webster, such as:

O I smell soot,
Most stinking soot, the chimney's a fire.
My liver's purloined like scotch

holly-bread.
There's a plumber laying pipes in my guts.

or:
I have caught
An everlasting cold. I have lost my voice.
Most irrecoverably.
(The White Devil)

or:
Cover her face: mine eyes dazzle:
she died young.
(The Duchess of Malfi)

That language made me dizzy. Joe Brearley fired my imagination. I can never forget him.

I started writing plays in 1957 and in 1958 *The Birthday Party* opened at the Lyric, Hammer-smith, was massacred by the critics (with the exception of Harold Hobson) and was taken off after eight performances. I decided to pop in to the Thursday matinee. I was a few minutes late and the curtain had gone up. I ran up the stairs to the dress circle. An usherette stopped me. "Where are you going?" she said. "To the dress circle," I said. "I'm the author." Her eyes, as I recall, misted over. "Oh, are you?" she said. "Oh, you poor chap. Listen, the dress circle's closed, but why don't you go in, go

in and sit down, darling, if you like, go on." I went into the empty dress circle and looked down into the stalls. Six people were watching the performance which, I must say, didn't seem to be generating very much electricity. I still have the box office returns for the week. The Thursday matinee brought in two pounds six shillings.

In a career attended by a great deal of dramatic criticism one of the most interesting — and indeed acute — critical questions I've ever heard was when I was introduced to a young woman and her six-year-old son. The woman looked down at her son and said: "This man is a very good writer." The little boy looked at me and then at his mother and said: "Can he do a 'W'?"

I'm well aware that I have been described in some quarters as being "enigmatic, taciturn, terse, prickly, explosive and forbidding". Well, I do have my moods like anyone else. I won't deny it. But my writing life, which has gone on for roughly 45 years and isn't over yet, has been informed by a quite different set of characteristics which have nothing whatsoever to do with those descriptions. Quite simply, my writing life has been one of relish, of challenge and of excitement.

This is an extract from Harold Pinter's acceptance speech for the David Cohen British Literature Prize 1995.

We cow'rin', tim'rous Scots

Magnus Linklater explains why he finds Twickenham intimidating

This is not an easy thing for a Scotsman to say on the morning of our expected triumph over England at Twickenham today. But I confess that most of us who journey south for the game will go to with a feeling of queasiness — a dull, ulcerous ache somewhere low down in the duodenum, a malaise that tightens the chest and makes breathing uncomfortable. It is something we will keep well hidden behind a jaunty facade as we unfold our banners and tune up for *Flower of Scotland*, our national anthem. But deep down, the gates of that monstrous stadium, regarded by every red-blooded Englishman as a place for joyful celebration, will instil about as much enthusiasm in the Scots who pass through them as the cliffs of Thermopylae did for the Spartans.

I have a feeling that this sense of foreboding goes well beyond rugby. It may have something to do with the uneasiness that any Scot experiences when confronted by the English en masse, but it is also a matter of caste. Twickenham is the English middle class at play. They display a relaxed ebullience that instils a sense of inferiority in even the most stalwart Scots. Philip Toynbee once remarked that if a bomb went off under the West Stand at Twickenham, it would end Fascism in England for a generation. I would not go as far as that, but it would certainly dent the English public school system, so raucously on display around the ground. Its products are everywhere, faces aglow with patriotism and other stimulants, jovial, loud-mouthed, in strident voice. They will make Scottish hearts sink.

Great generosity will, of course, be accorded to any Scot who happens to be seated among them, but even in that generosity we will detect a touch of condescension. They represent, after all, the ruling nation. They came out on top. In the great grand slam of history they scored the winning try, and it is hard to wipe that 1707 result off the slate. Behind the bonhomie and the

gin-and-tonic guffaws, what we Scots will glimpse, if only subconsciously, is the face of colonial oppression. And we will give an instinctive shiver. If this picture of the shrinking Scot sounds unconvincing, it is because we conceal it so well. The so-called "Scottish cringe" is, however, a familiar if unattractive aspect of the national character which occasionally breaks out in hostility or resentment at perceived English slights. Thus, the appointment of an Englishman to a top Scottish job is greeted with outrage, not because he is unqualified but because it is seen as evidence of foreign encroachment, a suggestion that English credentials are somehow superior. And that idea runs deep. Last year George Robertson, Labour's Shadow Secretary of State for Scotland, suggested that Scots would do well to acquire something of the self-confidence instilled by the English public school. It was, he thought, a quality to be emulated rather than derided.

Why we should need it is a matter for debate. But if there is an inferiority complex, it may stem from the fact that Scotland nurses the memory of its disasters more jealously than it does its victories. Culloden is more famous than Bannockburn. The defeat at Twickenham in 1966 looms larger than the Triple Crown victory in 1938. We may have a burning desire for victory, but the dull expectation of defeat is never far beneath. As G. K. Chesterton put it, "Scotland has a double dose of the poison called heredity: the sense of blood in the aristocrat, and the sense of doom in the Calvinist." Both will be on display at Twickenham this afternoon. I asked Norman Mair, veteran rugby writer, whether he thought we could overcome the Twickenham factor this afternoon and win. He thought we stood a good chance, but then added with instinctive Scots pessimism: "The trouble with the English is there are so damned many of them."

Taking a risk with vox pop

The BBC is to give the public a voice on issues of the moment. They could hardly be worse than the politicians

The first time I contributed to the BBC's *Question Time* I noticed two young men laden with files in the hospital room. Each was separately in conversation with two other guests. I asked who they were, and was told that they were regulars. They came from Labour and Conservative headquarters and were giving their respective MPs the party answers to the evening's probable questions. In another room I would see the Liberal also being coached. I was assured that without them the programme would be boring for the viewers. When I asked if briefing was available to me I was told that I was the token "wild card".

In the current American film *Quiz Show* this sort of thing led to a congressional inquiry. Rigging an ostensibly spontaneous programme with precasting and prepackaging to boost the ratings was considered unethical. At the BBC, indulging politicians was discreetly called "helping with charter renewal". Producers were instructed to use all three parties on "debates", giving them a virtual closed shop on panels such as *Question Time* and *Any Questions*.

What were derisively called "ordinary people" were used as audience sound-bites. They could fully participate only on working-class programmes such as *Kilroy* and *Wogan's Do the Right Thing*.

Now, praise be, the charter has been renewed and the BBC is detaching itself from subservience to the whips' offices. Last week Jeremy Paxman was named as host for a replacement for *Question Time* called *The People's Debate*. Westminster's performing seals are not to be invited and the programme is to debate "issues that affect people's everyday lives", such as the NHS, animal welfare and crime. Those who thought *Question Time* talked about little else will apparently discover a refreshing novelty in hearing the views of normal people. Debate will be less predictable, less polarised, more sincere, more real. If so, hoorah. Anything that ends the politicians' closed shop on broadcast discussion is welcome. A debate is a conversation of reason with itself. Ever since the days of *The Brains Trust* and *Three After Six*, uninhibited argument has been ideally suited

for broadcasting. The tradition lingers on in programmes like Melvyn Bragg's *Start the Week* and Mark Lawson's *Late Show*. Such relaxed formats meet Dr Johnson's description of the "happiest conversation, where there is no competition, no vanity, but a calm, quiet interchange of sentiments". (Or they usually do.) This may not describe the shouting match that is *The Moral Maze*, but it too is elevated by convictions strongly held rather than partisan posturing.

Broadcast politics has been hijacked by MPs. While they can be informative, even entertaining, on other topics, on their own they are dull, obliged to take the party line in Government and in Opposition alike. Yet they offer the lazy broadcaster a table d'hôte controversy, predicated on polarised, house-trained. Producers have a terror of lay people because they never know quite what such people might say. They might even agree with each other. MPs are guaranteed to take opposite sides on any question. This may be excruciating for viewers but they switched on for a row and a row they must have. *Question Time* has been like watching Grand Prix cars going round the

same track and ghoulishly waiting for a crash. I recall one discussion in which the former Tory minister, David Mellor, was accused by a Labour MP of messing up an aspect of broadcasting. Mr Mellor agreed and even proposed some added criticisms. The horrified chairman brought the debate instantly to a close.

Such programmes soon degenerate into mere cross-questioning by the chairman, the crosser the better. Each participant gets a sentence or two and the programme is degraded of intelligence. Earlier this month, Channel Four staged a commendably thorough series on the uses and abuses of camcorders. It culminated in a "Great Pot Debate", which was nothing of the kind. A gaggle of experts selected to disagree with each other were not permitted to do more than state their positions. After a fusillade of soundbites, a compère with a clipboard roamed the studio picking out dissenting quotes. Apparently petrified of any dialogue, she constantly called in aid that mortician of coherent argument "another



Jeremy Paxman, doyen of the "Oh come on now!" school of repartee, is to host *The People's Debate*

comment from our audience". A well-chaired debate is a well-conducted symphony; a comment from the audience is a hacking cough. The Great Pot Debate was little more than a shouting match. I am sure it qualified as "good television".

Fear of public debate should frighten any democracy. Daily repeats of "Let's debate the politician" are no substitute. The style of Sir Robin Day, now much debated, looms over British broadcasting, much as Oliver looms over British acting. The style is intrusive and inquisitorial, designed to bring to the surface weakness and conflict rather than enlightenment. Mr Paxman is a sport. Interviewers who put themselves on an equal footing with elected representatives may be guilty of discourtesy or *folie de grandeur*. But politicians get enough protection from the Club. They can put up with an occasional mugging from a representative of the Mob. Such interviewing is staged antagonism, wrapped and packed to ensure guaranteed agro. It is politics lashed to the wheel of entertainment. That is why extremist MPs are so popular with producers and Liberal Democrats are considered boring unless funny.

Where I agree with Mr Birt is that the BBC Director General, John Birt, recently attacked this school in *The Times*. He criticised the "ritualistic encounter", the "studio argy-bargy" and "overbearing interviewers who sneer disdainfully at their interviewees". He picked out a speci-

ality of Mr Paxman's, "the disorientating opening question, the rabbit punch". Such Hogarthian banter has its place, Mr Birt implied, but was becoming a "force for ill" in democracy. It was the enemy of comprehension and needed correction. He might have referred to Johnson's other maxim on this subject: "Questioning is not the mode of conversation among gentlemen."

side from the eccentricity of Mr Birt lecturing his staff through *The Times*, I doubt if many viewers or listeners are upset by these gladiatorial combats. They are a compelling blood sport. Interviewers who put themselves on an equal footing with elected representatives may be guilty of discourtesy or *folie de grandeur*. But politicians get enough protection from the Club. They can put up with an occasional mugging from a representative of the Mob. Such interviewing is staged antagonism, wrapped and packed to ensure guaranteed agro. It is politics lashed to the wheel of entertainment. That is why extremist MPs are so popular with producers and Liberal Democrats are considered boring unless funny.

This is merely the theatre of politics, not the stuff. If he wants debate he must continue what he has started, and break the MPs' closed shop. Party politicians can be articulate advocates of one standpoint. A few dispossessed ones, such as Lord Tebbit and Tony Benn, carry conviction as their "own men". But working MPs seem professionally debarré from the utensils of debate: opinions sincerely held and a mind open to reason. Listen to any broadcast discussion on the NHS. It is all toting the party line.

The BBC appears at last to have done a Wapping on the politicians' union. It has called their bluff. The Con-Lab-Lib *Question Time* format is to be discontinued. Members of the public, if they can be found, are to be allowed to debate with each other unscripted by political parties. The Corporation is taking a gamble on sincerity. Terrible things may happen. Panelists may utter such obscenities as "I rather agree with the last speaker" or even "that was a good point". They may demand the right to finish a sentence. They may ask Mr Paxman kindly not to interrupt when they are talking. He might even consent. There is exciting viewing ahead.

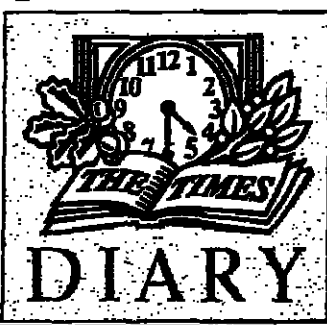
Nice gaffe

THE GOOD BURGHERS of Consett in Co Durham have been quick to take advantage of Kenneth Clarke's magnificent howlers this month. The Chancellor's eulogies, first to a steelworks that closed 15 years ago and then to a defunct nappy factory, have sent local councillors scurrying to their drawing boards.

There is talk of T-shirts and mugs bearing the Chancellor's cheery face. An advertising campaign to attract new companies to the area has been brought forward by months and will now start in two weeks' time — probably featuring Clarke in some guise or other.

"We've put Kenneth Clarke at the top of our Christmas card list," says Derwentside District Council's promotions officer, John Davis. "We certainly couldn't have afforded to pay for that kind of coverage."

The Labour leader of the council, Alex Watson, will propose at a council meeting later this month that the Chancellor be invited to



Consett. "We are also going to investigate T-shirts with Mr Clarke's face and coffee mugs featuring the Chancellor with the words 'I'm a mug'. That would get the message across," says Watson. "There are lots of jokes going round at the moment about steel nappies."

Eric's song

MANCHESTER football fans are showing their appreciation for Eric

Cantona by recording an anthem in his honour. Set to the tune of "Lily the Pink", its eight verses span the philosopher's life.

The fiery Frenchman will have the chance to hear it when he appears on Thursday at Croydon Magistrates' Court. "We will be forming a guard of honour for him when he gets out," says Richard Kurt, lead singer of the supporters' group.

Veil threat

AS PRINCESS Elena of Spain walks up the aisle today to marry Don Jaime de Marichalar in Seville's 16th-century cathedral, one can only hope that her veil is fastened securely. At St Mary's Convent, Ascot, where she was a spirited pupil in the late 1970s, she had terrible trouble with her mantilla, the lacy veil which was then compulsory wear for Mass on Sundays.

"She hated wearing the thing," says one of her contemporaries. "None of us liked it but she objected more than most of us. Elena would very often 'lose' the veil just before Mass." The princess's shade-wearing detectives, who sat at the back

of the school chapel, resigned themselves most Sundays to the mantilla saga — which invariably ended with the Sisters forcing her to learn lines of poetry in detention.

● Glamour will hit the Cambridge Union in May Week. For the first time, the aisles of the debating chamber will be transformed into



Princess Elena at school

a catwalk for strutting students. "They will be modelling Sir Hardy Amies's latest collection," explains Nicholas Boys-Smith, President of the Union. "He has just finished designing our new Union blazer, so we will have a number of people wearing those too."

Cashing in

SIR MICHAEL Bishop, chairman of British Midland, caught a recent meeting of Tory graduates unaware by claiming responsibility for the party's turmoil over Europe. He gave Bill Cash his big break.

"In 1984 I received a telephone call from Margaret Thatcher, who urged me to put my name forward as the Conservative candidate in the Stafford by-election," explained Bishop to the gathering in Ketter's wine bar, Soho. "I declined, believing that businessmen make bad politicians." In his stead, Stafford picked the arch Euro-sceptic.

Lovat's cure

LORD LOVAT, Chief of the Clan Fraser, who died on Thursday aged



Queen Elizabeth visiting Lord Lovat in hospital in June 1944

83, was never one to accept "below-stairs" treatment. When evacuated to hospital in Basingstoke with injuries incurred as commando leader in the D-Day landings, his relatives discovered that many of the wounded were being treated with penicillin.

The drug was still in its experimental stage and the family was concerned that a brigadier of suffi-

cient stature to be visited by the Queen should secure superlative treatment. The only solution was to summon the best expert in the land. Sir Alexander Fleming duly packed his bags to administer the drug he had discovered to his fellow Scot in person.

P.H.S

OBITUARIES

DONALD BAVERSTOCK

Donald Baverstock, former television producer and BBC and ITV executive, died yesterday aged 71. He was born on January 18, 1924.

DONALD BAVERSTOCK was a dominant figure in the television service of the BBC in the 1950s and 1960s. He will be best remembered for his association with the *Tonight* programme, which he edited from 1957 to 1961. His frequent rudeness was far outweighed by his ability to inspire his colleagues. One of them, Sir Anthony Jay, wrote of his "extraordinary creative vision of what we ought to be doing and his power of making us improve sufficiently to achieve it".

Donald Leighton Baverstock was the son of a Welsh shopkeeper. He was born in Cardiff and educated at that city's Canton High School and at Christ Church, Oxford, where he read history. He was called up for service in the RAF in 1943. He completed a tour of operations with Bomber Command the following year and then spent two years as a navigation instructor. He had a brief spell as a history master at Wellington College, before joining the BBC as a producer at Bush House, where he worked alongside Tony Benn in the North American service.

Four years later he moved to television, where Grace Wyndham Goldie, the assistant head of talks, had gathered around her a group of young men — Michael Peacock, Geoffrey Johnson Smith, James Bredin — who formed the nucleus of the current affairs unit. Baverstock cut his teeth on a programme called *We, the French* and within a year was producing *Highlight*, a ten-minute programme in the early evening that was partly a response to the start of Independent Television and partly a means of plugging a gap in the schedule.

In 1955 he was joined by a new recruit to the Wyndham Goldie kindergarten called Alasdair Milne, and together they began to consider how to respond to ITV's known desire to breach the "Toddler's Truce" — in those early days the conventional wisdom was that mothers of small children would have an easier time of it if the television screen was blank between 6 and 7pm.

The result was *Tonight*. It went on the air in February 1957 with only six weeks' preparation and it had an initial budget of £300 a night. The

BBC television service was operating out of the converted film studios at Lime Grove and various other buildings dotted about the capital: for the first months of its existence *Tonight* was broadcast from a studio in Kensington rented from Marconi.

The style of the programme was relaxed and informal, which was just as well since the facilities were extremely primitive. There were two silent cameras and a heavy 35mm Mitchell sound camera developed for shooting films on Hollywood sound stages. *Picture Post* folded shortly after the launch of *Tonight* and Baverstock was thus able to acquire some first-rate reporters accustomed to visual journalism. Among them were Trevor Philpott, Fyfe Robertson (of the deerstalker hat) and the lugubrious-looking but very funny cameraman-turned reporter, Slim Hewitt. Other new faces on the *Tonight* screen included Alan Whicker, Kenneth Allsob and Derek Hart who shared the presentation with the imperturbable anchor-man, Cliff Michelmore.

There was, Baverstock insisted, no such thing as a boring subject, only boring ways of looking at things. His approach was essentially egalitarian: eel-catchers were to be treated no less seriously than the Dame of Sark. He took the view that much of the television of the late 1950s had been unduly reverential. *Panorama*, the BBC's current affairs flagship, was the voice of authority. Baverstock wanted *Tonight* to be the voice of the people. *Tonight* people, wrote Grace Wyndham Goldie, "strutted about Lime Grove in a body, respecting the audience but despising other broadcasters". Soon that audience reached the 8 million mark and Baverstock was rewarded with the best factual programme award by the Guild of Television Writers and Producers.

The programme's success was important for the BBC, which, in the face of competition from ITV, had seen its share of the audience sink to 28 per cent. Although he had a talented team, much of the credit was Baverstock's. He was not an easy colleague. The late Derek Hart once said — affectionately — that he "had all the social graces of an untrained Labrador dog". Alasdair Milne was to describe him in his memoirs as "the wild, voluble Welshman with his thumping nose, chewing his nails, thumping the table", but he also saluted him as a great editor and a great inspirer of people.



In some ways, the period from 1957 until 1961, when he handed over the editorship to Milne, was the high-point of Baverstock's achievement. He was to go further and higher both inside and outside the BBC but the bright confident morning of his *Tonight* editorship was not to be repeated.

In 1961 he was promoted to be Assistant Controller of Programmes. He had been discussing with Milne and Ned Sherrin a new programme for Saturday nights. It went on the air the following year as *That Was The Week That Was*. *TW3* was by turns

stylish, juvenile, smutty, offensive and very funny. It built up an audience of 12 million. It occasioned outrage among politicians and uneasiness among BBC governors. But when, at short notice, it marked the death of President Kennedy, Senator Hubert Humphrey asked that the complete transcript be printed in the *Congressional Record*. When it was announced that it was to come off, the BBC received 200 letters of congratulations and 700 of complaint.

Baverstock went one rung higher on the BBC hierarchical ladder in 1963 when he was made Chief of

Programmes BBC1. With Michael Peacock running the new BBC2 it seemed as if the Young Turks of the old current affairs unit had come into their kingdom, but two years later his BBC career ran into the buffers.

Baverstock felt he ought to have been offered the succession as Controller of Programmes when Stuart Hood fell out with the television management and went off to Associated-Rediffusion. But Hugh Greene, the Director-General, told him that he was the focus of too much animosity in the television service to make that possible or for him to continue as head of BBC1. He was offered a choice between running BBC2, going off to be the Paris representative or accepting some nebulous new function in charge of special programmes. The story of his humiliation made the "splash" in the *Daily Mail* in a scoop written by Bernard Levin.

The blow to Baverstock's pride was severe. He resigned from the Corporation. Alasdair Milne followed him and they joined Antony Jay in setting up one of the earliest of the independent production companies. Two years later there was a re-allocation of ITV franchises. Yorkshire Television was awarded a new area carved out of Granada and Baverstock was appointed its Director of Programmes.

He attracted a number of former BBC colleagues to work with him in Leeds and London and he did the job for six years, but to a man of his temperament the wheeling and dealing of the commercial side of the duopoly was unattractive. He was briefly with Granada in the mid-1970s as managing director of its video subsidiary. At the invitation of his old friend Alasdair Milne, by then BBC TV's Director of Programmes, he next returned to the BBC, and from 1975 to 1977 worked as an executive producer in Manchester. There he produced one of the weirdest magazine programmes of recent times with the title of *Terra Firma* which, under his discursive supervision, had a deservedly limited run — but by then the demon drink had taken its toll.

Baverstock married in 1957 Gillian Mary Waters, whose mother was Elyon Blyden, and there were two sons and two daughters of the marriage, which was dissolved last year. He himself had been in a hospital for the past couple of years. One son and the two daughters survive him.

GRAHAM SNEATH

Graham Sneath, OBE, QC, former Solicitor-General of Hong Kong and Lecturer in Law at Birmingham University, died on March 7 aged 70. He was born on December 29, 1924.

GRAHAM SNEATH was the epitome of the altruistic, even idealistic, colonial civil servant. He was a lifelong bachelor who cared deeply about other people, a quality which arose from a strong spiritual sense and to which he applied his considerable intellect.

The younger son of Rupert and Doris Sneath, Graham Rupert Sneath was the son of a typically middle-class professional family whose wealth derived from international accountancy in the South America of the 1930s. As a child he enjoyed two homes, one in Buenos Aires with his parents and the other in the original family seat of Hendon with his favourite aunt. His early education at Wellington College was interrupted by the war and, after evacuation, had to be finished in Ontario. In 1944 he joined the RNVF and served in *HMS Baffleur*. In the Far East at the time of the Japanese surrender, he had occasion to visit Hong Kong and determined to return there in order to pursue a career at the local Bar.

First, however, he went to Pembroke College, Cambridge, where he gained a law degree. Called to the Bar by the Inner Temple in 1950, he undertook both a Common Law and a Chancery pupillage before sailing for Hong Kong in 1952. He had earlier had the temerity to tell the Crown Agents that he wanted to serve in that colony and, despite being told that he would be sent where they decided, he had no waver. Changing others to do what he wanted was a characteristic talent followed out the years that followed, both in the considerable charitable works he undertook and also in his well organised social life.

He firmly believed in sound administration and good government. He was particularly interested in the problems of housing Hong Kong's burgeoning population and favoured the solution of high-rise, low-cost blocks of flats subject to finely balanced rent control measures. He was sensitive to the problems of the young and devoted much of his spare time to the colony's boys' and girls' clubs. In the late 1950s and early 1960s he

added broadcasting to his activities and, under the pseudonym of George Fowler, became the anchor man of Radio Hong Kong's *Patchwork* magazine programme, contributing his own ideas and language to the scripts.

In the turbulent years of the Cultural Revolution, he occupied the senior posts of Assistant to the Law Officers and, from 1967 to 1973, that of Solicitor-General. During the troubles of 1967 the Government Office Buildings had to endure loudspeaker noise from the Bank of China nearby — until, that is, traditional British reserve was overcome and he and his colleagues retaliated with even louder renditions of *Land of Hope and Glory* and other jingoistic numbers.

After 21 years Graham Sneath decided that it was time to come home, but not, as it turned out, at all for retirement. He threw himself into a second career as a lecturer at the University of Birmingham where he will be remembered by a generation of students as a conservative but avuncular and kindly man who took his tutorial functions very seriously. He taught criminal law and criminal evidence and procedure highly effectively, bringing to his teaching the benefit of more than 20 years of professional experience.

His selflessness was perhaps epitomised by his reaction to his first heart attack when he knocked on the door of a colleague and asked politely if he would mind dropping in when he had finished his tutorial. Half an hour later the colleague found Sneath on the floor of his room. On that occasion expert surgery saved the day and he went on to be appointed a part-time chairman of industrial tribunals, work which he only finished shortly before his death.



GORDON EMERY

Gordon Emery, CBE, builder and property developer, died on March 6 aged 76. He was born on November 11, 1918.

BORN on the day the First World War ended, Gordon Emery founded his business career on the events surrounding the outbreak of the Second. From the autumn of 1938 onwards an immense programme was launched for the building of air raid shelters, and two young Manchester builders — 19-year-old Gordon Emery and his slightly older brother Dennis — found themselves much in demand. In the spring of 1939 they moved over into housebuilding. When war finally broke out on September 3, 1939, they were faced with the withdrawal of a number of prospective purchasers. The company, however, survived and, indeed, six years ago celebrated its golden jubilee.

Gordon Haig Emery was born in Stockport, Cheshire, and spent the latter part of his education at the Manchester College of Technology. A Territorial Army volunteer, he was immediately summoned to the colours in 1939, leaving his brother in charge of his business (that brother himself was later called up and was killed in Belgium in 1944). His

own war service started with the British Expeditionary Force in France — he was evacuated from Dunkirk — and later was spent mainly in the Middle East.

On returning home in 1946 the now 27-year-old Emery joined with another brother in reviving the building firm of D. & G. Emery. Inevitably, the period of postwar austerity led to restrictions on private house-building and in 1948 he emigrated to America where he remained for six years.

Back in England in 1954, Emery started his own building company which later joined up — after his brother's early death — with the original firm of D. & G. Emery. The two companies became the foundation of what is now the Gordon Emery Group, reaching from residential to commercial property and, from 1993, including television interests as well.

In the North West Emery became a considerable political figure, being a member of the Stockport Conservative Association for 55 years and serving as its president at the time of his death. He was a former member of Stockport Council. He was appointed CBE in 1987 for his political and public services.

He leaves a widow and three daughters.

THE DOWAGER VISCOUNTESS WIMBORNE

The Dowager Viscountess Wimborne, gardener and widow of the 2nd Viscount Wimborne, died on March 11 aged 77. She was born on February 17, 1918.

THE Dowager Viscountess Wimborne was an immensely practical woman, an expert gardener and for many years president of the Northamptonshire branch of the Red Cross. She rarely talked about her charity work though she did a great deal of it, apparently following the advice of her family motto as the daughter of the 6th Earl of Ilchester — "Deeds Without Words". She was the grandmother of the present Viscount Wimborne and the mother of the 3rd Viscount who died in 1993.

She was a notable gardener in the very different climates of Jamaica, where her husband had an estate, and Guernsey, where she moved in the late 1960s. She made a significant contribution to the horticulture of the latter is-

land, introducing a number of new and interesting plants, in particular a hybrid *Ceanothus* called "Concha". At the end of her life she was trying to name a new *Echium* which she had bred. She started a very successful scheme there, opening gardens to the public in aid of local charities.

But her most important contribution to botany was made in the International Dendrology Society where she held office for many years. She organised tours for its members to obscure places all over the world, and shepherded bus loads of experts through remote forests, sometimes suffering unreliable roads and hotels. She contributed much to the success of these visits by her unfailing attention to detail and her ability to charm and amuse her hosts as well as her colleagues. Nothing was left to chance: meticulously arranged timetables were kept, and no one was left out. She was born Lady Mabel Edith Fox-Strangways, the

younger daughter of the 6th Earl of Ilchester. The Ilchesters trace their ancestry to Sir Stephen Fox, born in 1627, an adherent to Charles II during his exile. His second son, born in 1704 when his father was 76, became the 1st Earl of Ilchester in 1756.

The 2nd Earl was a colourful figure who died, severely afflicted by gout, in 1802. He was once described thus: "Meanness more than proverbial, sordid infamy superior to ideas, has chained his soul with iron of depraved and lawless avarice to the floor of base malevolence." The 4th Earl was the Whig politician William Fox, Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs in 1835.

Lady Mabel's father was a philanthropist who served as a trustee of the National Portrait Gallery and the British Museum, and as president of the London Library and the Royal Literary Fund. The family owned Holland House in Kensington (the mansion built by John Thorpe in 1607) and land around Holland Park, Holland being a family title.

Her mother was Lady Helen Vane-Tempest-Stewart, daughter of the 6th Marquess of Londonderry, Lord President of the Council. Thus Lady Mabel descended variously from the Earls of Ilchester, Darnley and Roden, the Dukes of Atholl and the Marquesses of Londonderry. Her sister, Lady Mary Herbert, was a Woman of the Bedchamber to Queen Elizabeth from 1944 to 1948.

Lady Mabel married Ivor Guest in November 1938. He was then MP for Brecon and Radnor and six months later he succeeded his father — the former Lord Lieutenant of

Ireland — as the 2nd Viscount Wimborne. During the war he served as parliamentary private secretary to the Under-Secretary of State for Air, Lord Sherwood.

His was an immensely wealthy family, with a fortune which came originally from a foundry in Glamorgan in the late 18th century. The 2nd Viscount owned estates in Perthshire, Northamptonshire and Jamaica. Often it was left to Lady Mabel to see to the day-to-day running of these, as her husband also managed a business in the City and was obliged to spend much of his time in London.

Her husband also owned Wimborne House, next to the Ritz Hotel in London, which was the cause of a memorable exchange. The hotel management informed Wimborne that it was considering the extension of the building and would like to buy his house. Wimborne replied that he was thinking of extending his garden and asked if they would like to sell him their hotel. He later sold Wimborne House to an insurance company instead.

Lady Mabel was president of the Northamptonshire branch of the Red Cross, 1943-69, and for a while of the local branch of the St John Ambulance Brigade. After her husband's death in 1967 she moved permanently to their house in Guernsey, and became involved with running the island's branch of the Red Cross. Gardening, however, remained her first passion. She was sometimes outspoken but she had a strong sense of humour.

She leaves her three sons and a daughter, one son having predeceased her.



PERSONAL COLUMN

PUBLIC NOTICES

CHARITY COMMISSION
NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to s. 17 of the CHARITIES Act, 1960, that any person having a CLAIM in respect of any of the CHARITIES of the County of Middlesex, who is not a member of the Charity Commission, is hereby required to send a statement in writing of his claim to the Charity Commission, or to the Charity Commission for England and Wales, or to the Charity Commission for Wales, or to the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland, or to the Charity Commission for Scotland, or to the Charity Commission for the Channel Islands, or to the Charity Commission for the Isle of Man, or to the Charity Commission for the City of London, or to the Charity Commission for the County of London, or to the Charity Commission for the County of Middlesex, or to the Charity Commission for the County of Surrey, or to the Charity Commission for the County of Kent, or to the Charity Commission for the County of Sussex, or to the Charity Commission for the County of Hampshire, or to the Charity 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NEWS

Ministers to meet Sinn Fein

The Government is set to announce that ministers are to hold face-to-face talks with Sinn Fein for the first time in pursuit of a lasting peace in Northern Ireland.

The firm prospect of a breakthrough within days beckoned after Gerry Adams, the Sinn Fein leader, signalled that he was prepared to meet London's conditions on decommissioning IRA arms. Pages 1, 7, 19

Scots gather for Twickenham showdown

Tickets were changing hands today for a record £1,000 on the black market as thousands of Scots descended on London for the winner-take-all confrontation at Twickenham between the auld enemies of the rugby world. Pages 1, 18, 42, 43, 44

Pope condemns

The Pope will condemn embryo research and most forms of *in vitro* fertilisation in his latest encyclical, to be published this month. Pages 1, 11

Ronnie Kray dies

Ronnie Kray, once the terror of the London underworld with Reggie, his twin, died yesterday. He was aged 61. Pages 1, 3

Spaced out

Astronomers have stumbled on vast quantities of pure alcohol in outer space. Pages 1, 19

Gale death

A public schoolboy was killed and seven of his fellow pupils in the Army cadet corps injured in gales in the South-East. Page 2

Major setback

John Major's hopes of healing Tory wounds over Europe are likely to suffer another setback in a Commons vote on the common agricultural policy. Page 2

Buddy shall go no more a roving

Buddy, Brian Harrington's dog, likes a night's jaunt, but its latest excursion took it a bit off the beaten path — 1,600 miles off. Four days after failing to return from an evening run, Buddy was found on a highway in Fort Collins, Colorado. Page 14

Deer hunts

Somerset County Council acted beyond its legal powers when it banned deer hunting on land it owns. Page 6

Queen's visit

The Queen is expected to bestow a major honour on President Mandela in South Africa next week. Page 13

House prices

Prices at the top of the housing market in such areas as Hampstead are beginning to return to 1988 levels. Pages 10, Weekend 13

Army dispute

German deputies argued about whether soldiers who deserted during the war were cowards, criminals or heroes. Page 15

Nepalese appeal

The Nepalese Prime Minister, has asked Britain for help in stabilising his country's fragile democracy. Page 17



The Queen and Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother with the officers and men of the 1st Battalion Irish Guards at Chelsea Barracks in London yesterday after the traditional St Patrick's Day 'shamrock' parade

COLUMNS

How the West was lost

To oppose the teaching of Western civilisation is to oppose the tradition of tolerance that makes academic argument possible. Page 19

Visit of Good Hope

Nothing which the Queen saw during her last visit to South Africa will have prepared her for the vibrant country in which she arrives tomorrow. Page 19

Spaced out

"Ruddy alcantaras," the galaxy sergeant sighed. "They are always 2001 over the eight in one of those cloudy Venus and Mars right at the end of the universe." Page 19

BUSINESS

Simon Jenkins: The BBC has

called the politicians' bluff. The Con-Lab-Lib Question Time format is to be discontinued. Page 18

Harold Pinter: Quite simply,

My writing life has been one of relish, of challenge and of excitement. Page 18

THE PAPER

It has been said that President Clinton is pursuing the carrot and carrot approach to the Sinn Fein leader. It is a risky policy, but it seems to be producing results. Page 19

SPORT

Power battle: Northern Electric

shares tumbled 54p to 727p after the Takeover Panel finally rejected Trafalgar House's attempted £1 billion takeover bid. Page 23

Drugs: Fisons is selling its

R & D arm for £202 million to Astra. Page 23

Markets: The FT-SE 100

index fell 4.8 points to 3089.3. Sterling's trade-weighted index fell from \$4.7 to \$4.4 after a fall from \$1.5912 to \$1.5847 and from DM2.2113 to DM2.1964. Page 26

Rugby Union: The build-up

to the England v Scotland match at Twickenham today outweighs anything that has gone before. Page 44

Football: Arsenal were

drawn against Sampdoria in the Cup Winners' Cup semi-finals and Chelsea against Real Zaragoza. Page 44

Motor racing: Mark Blundell

will replace Nigel Mansell in the McLaren team for the first two rounds of the Formula One world championship while Mansell's car is adjusted. Page 44

CARS

Money wasted: Motorists eager to fit immobilisers could waste hundreds of pounds because of contradictory rules and regulations

SATURDAY TIMES

MAGAZINE

Richard Avedon: The photographer whose fame rivals that of his most famous sitters talks to Ben Macintyre on the eve of his 50-year retrospective. Page 30

Every year 737s carry golfers to the Algarve in Portugal for the Jimmy Tarbuck celebrity-amateur golf tournament. Robert Crampton joins the party. Page 10

Puppy love: Valerie Grove describes how 101 Dalmatians came to be written. Page 18

By George: Why did Lloyd George accept that peacetime? John Grigg explains. Page 23

Fashion: Iain R. Webb reports on the colouring and lines of Ermenegildo Zegna. Page 42

WEEKEND

Perfect swine: Buying a couple of pigs is one thing; managing them is another. Anne-Marie Sapsted says. Page 15

Middle-aged and don't know it? John Diamond, 41, presents a definitive guide to the symptoms. Page 1

Euripides '95: Benedict Arnold finds modern echoes in *Women of Troy*. Page 5

The countryside fights back: Why villagers are drawing up development guidelines. Page 13

Week in the arts: Another no-show throws Royal Ballet into disarray; and a warehouse in Wembley develops artistic pretensions. Page 5

VISION

Wonder woman: Dr Miriam Rothschild chooses seven scientific wonders. Page 3

Bulletins: Whose agenda shapes the news? Page 5

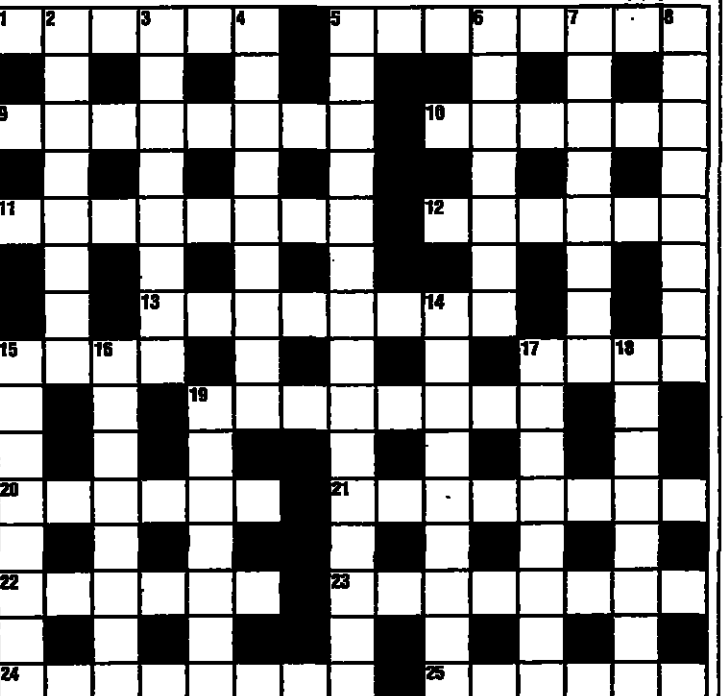
Murder, she writes: Ruth Rendell on how TV treats her work. Page 6

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 19,806

KNOCKARDO

A bottle of Knockardo, a superb Speyside Single Malt Scotch whisky uniquely bottled only when at its peak of perfection, rather than at a pre-determined age, together with a fine leather credit card wallet, will be given for the first five correct solutions opened next Thursday. Entries should be addressed to: The Times, Saturday Crossword Competition, PO Box 486, Virginia Street, London E1 9DD. The winners and solution will be published next Saturday.

Name/Address



ACROSS

- It's back to sleep without a programme to laugh at (6).
- For Lear, it was all advanced age (8).
- Court order: Amanda must avoid extremes (8).
- He can kick better (6).
- One who's dying to be a nuisance (8).
- Came in to adjust the screen (6).
- Materialise out of thin air? (8).
- Proverbially, houses are so protected (4).
- A band item from the past (4).
- Concentrating on cheap American jewellery? (8).
- Team-member turns and runs off for catch (6).
- Occasionally see both sides (3,3,2).
- Coleridge, originally a lake poet (6).
- Circular armour against projectile (8).
- Charitable man? Rubbish — a heretic (8).
- Meeting the latest requirements? Not up till now (2,4).

Solution to Puzzle No 19,800

STATE LOWEST OFF
UL A I E L V I
PRIESTESS OLEUM
E A Y O T U R O
RESUME BRIGHTON
N A B I H R
OSCAR WILDE DISC
V O K P I P C U
AIRY PAMPHLET
K N H G O T
DISTASTE IMPALA
E C G I S P W I
MORIS SHOWTRIAL
O E A M E N E
NEWGUINEA RIGID

DOWN

- Queen seen as liable for damage (8).
- False coin in old pouch (8).
- Act, and risk being struck dumb (9).
- They used to get stiff digging (12,3).
- Learned it in English — simple (7).
- Ten! Groggry man defeated rises from the floor (8).
- A grass so wild it is a weed (8).
- Fell over a stone, one being near (9).
- Exhaust feature of gag (8).
- Police man lying over kick (8).
- In pain, as Gideon might be (8).
- Project meeting of deadly finality (5-3).
- Class a deadly sin as a big error (7).

Solution to Puzzle No 19,805

MAVER GROUNDSEL
U L A I E L V I
PRIESTESS OLEUM
E A Y O T U R O
RESUME BRIGHTON
N A B I H R
OSCAR WILDE DISC
V O K P I P C U
AIRY PAMPHLET
K N H G O T
DISTASTE IMPALA
E C G I S P W I
MORIS SHOWTRIAL
O E A M E N E
NEWGUINEA RIGID

WEATHER

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, call 0800 555 555 followed by the code.

Region	Forecast
Greater London	702
Kent, Surrey, Sussex	703
West Angles	704
Wilt, Glouce, Avon, Somerset	705
Berk, Bucks, Oxon	706
Bedford, Herts & Essex	707
North Suffolk	708
West Mid & Sh. Glam & Gwent	709
Shrop, Hereford & Worcs	710
Central Midlands	711
East Midlands	712
York & Peter	713
Yorkshire & Cleveland	714
N.W. England	715
W & S Wales & Dorset	716
N.E. England	717
Cumbria & Lake District	718
S.W. Scotland	719
W. Central Scotland	720
Edin & Fife/Lothian & Borders	721
W. Central Scotland	722
Edin & Fife/Lothian & Borders	723
W. Central Scotland	724
Edin & Fife/Lothian & Borders	725
W. Central Scotland	726
Edin & Fife/Lothian & Borders	727
W. Central Scotland	728
Edin & Fife/Lothian & Borders	729
W. Central Scotland	730
Edin & Fife/Lothian & Borders	731
W. Central Scotland	732
Edin & Fife/Lothian & Borders	733
W. Central Scotland	734
Edin & Fife/Lothian & Borders	735
W. Central Scotland	736
Edin & Fife/Lothian & Borders	737
W. Central Scotland	738
Edin & Fife/Lothian & Borders	739
W. Central Scotland	740
Edin & Fife/Lothian & Borders	741
W. Central Scotland	742
Edin & Fife/Lothian & Borders	743
W. Central Scotland	744
Edin & Fife/Lothian & Borders	745
W. Central Scotland	746
Edin & Fife/Lothian & Borders	747
W. Central Scotland	748
Edin & Fife/Lothian & Borders	749
W. Central Scotland	750

Weathercall is charged at 39p per minute (cheap rate) and 49p per minute at all other times.

HOURS OF DARKNESS

For the latest AA traffic/roadworks information, 24 hours a day, call 0330 401 followed by the code.

Region	Forecast
London & SE traffic, roadworks	731
Area within M25	732
Essex/Herts/Beds/Bucks/Berks/Oxon	733
Kent/Surrey/Sussex/Hants	734
M25 London Orbital only	735
National traffic and roadworks	736
National motorways	737
West Coast	738
Wales	739
Midlands	740
West Angles	741
North-west England	742
North-east England	743
Scotland	744
Northern Ireland	745
AA Roadwatch is charged at 39p per minute (cheap rate) and 49p per minute at all other times.	

TODAY

Sun rises: 6:08 am Sun sets: 8:10 pm

Moon sets: 6:26 am Moon rises: 8:24 pm

Last quarter March 23

London 6:10 pm to 6:07 am

Edinburgh 6:10 pm to 6:17 am

Manchester 6:10 pm to 6:15 am

Perthshire 6:10 pm to 6:26 am

TOMORROW

Sun rises: 6:07 am Sun sets: 8:11 pm

Moon sets: 6:57 am Moon rises: 8:42 pm

Last quarter March 23

London 6:11 pm to 6:05 am

Edinburgh 6:11 pm to 6:17 am

Manchester 6:11 pm to 6:15 am

Perthshire 6:11 pm to 6:26 am

HIGH TIDES

TODAY

AM HT PM HT

London Bridge 2:28 7:15 2:52 7:27

Aberdeen 2:01 4:31 2:12 4:40

Avonmouth 7:55 13:78 8:17 13:80

Belfast 11:41 3:58 8:08 12:28

Cardiff 7:46 9:61 7:04 9:59

Dover 6:36 5:55 6:58 5:44

Durham 11:38 6:72 0:17 4:25

Falmouth 5:29 5:39 5:57 5:28

Glasgow 1:36 4:20 11:07 3:72

Hawthorn 0:51 4:01 0:45 4:05

Holyhead 10:57 5:79 11:16 5:58

Hull 8:58 7:63 7:11 7:06

Inverness 6:42 6:61 7:04 6:59

King's Lynn 6:32 6:59 7:08 7:25

Leam 3:12 5:84 3:31 5:80

Leeds 12:00 9:88

Lowestoft 10:22 4:25 10:24 2:53

Margate 0:28 4:85 0:56 4:80

Milford Haven 6:50 7:28 7:11 7:21

Newquay 9:40 7:20 5:58 7:14

Ocean 6:21 4:08 6:39 3:98

Perthshire 5:20 5:70 5:40 5:50

Plymouth 7:38 2:21

Portsmouth 11:57 6:01 11:47 4:78

Southampton 7:06 9:89 7:25 9:87

Swansea 4:18 5:48 4:35 5:58

Tide 0:18 4:42 0:35 4:48

Wilton-on-Nez 0:18 4:42 0:35 4:48

Copyright reserved All tide times are GMT

Thursday, Highest day tide: Salcombe, Devon, and Guernsey, 12C (54F); lowest day tide: Avonmouth, Highland, 3C (37F); highest rainfall: Cape Wrath, Highland, 0.4in; highest sunshine: Sandown-on-Sea, 5.3h.

FORECAST

General: England and Wales will start sunny in the east but the west will be showery. Showers will invade all areas during the morning, turning heavy and wintry to give more snow on the Welsh and Lakeland hills and the Pennines.

More southern parts will have less showers and more sunshine, although the Channel Isles will stay cloudy with rain.

Scotland and Northern Ireland will have further sleet and snow showers through the day. There will be some sunshine, especially in the east.

It will be windy everywhere, making near-average temperatures feel cool.

London, SE England, E Anglia, E Midlands, E England, Central N: sunny start, scattered showers. Wind fresh or strong westerly. Max 9C (48F).

Central S England, W Midlands, NW England, S Wales, N Wales, SW England, NE England: sunny periods and showers. Snow on hills. Wind westerly fresh. Max 9C (48F).

Channel Isles: mostly cloudy with some rain. Wind westerly strong. Max 10C (50F).

Borders, Edinburgh and Dundee, Aberdeen, Moray Firth: sunny start, scattered wintry showers. Wind northwesterly.

Lake District, Isle of Man, SW Scotland, Glasgow, Central Highlands, NE Scotland, Argyll, NW Scotland, Orkney, Shetland, N Ireland: sleet and snow showers, especially on hills. Some sunshine. Wind northwesterly fresh. Max 6C (43F).

Outlook: more snow showers in the North at first, brighter and drier everywhere.

AROUND BRITAIN

24 hrs to 5 pm: b = bright; c = cloud; d = drizzle; de = dust; du = drizzle; f = fog; g = gale; h = hail; r = rain; sh = shower; s = sleet; sn = snow; a = sun; t = thunder

Sun Rain C Max F

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Angusley 6.8 0.01 11 52 c sh

Arundel 6.8 0.01 11 52 c sh

Ashford 6.8 0.01 11 52 c sh

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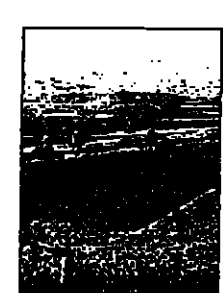
Ashford 6.8 0.01 11 52 c sh

Ashford

DAY MARCH 18 1995
JRDAY TIMES
MAGAZINE



PROFILE 25
A round trip for the Square Mile



WINEMAKING 25
The vineyards of Australia may fail to quench UK thirst



SPORT 37-44
Mike Catt: turning defence into attack for England

WEEKEND SPORTING FIXTURES
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THE TIMES

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook SATURDAY MARCH 18 1995

Pound slumps as consumers lose heart

BY JANET BUSH ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

THE pound slumped to yet another record low against the German mark yesterday and came perilously near its all-time low against a basket of currencies as political uncertainties and falling consumer confidence sent investors scurrying for safety.

Sterling hit a new low of DM2.1950, more than two pence below its close on Thursday night, before edging a little higher to close at around DM2.1965. Its trade-weighted index against a basket of currencies fell to 84.4 at the close, very near to the all-time low of 84.0 set in early 1993 after sterling left the European exchange-rate mechanism and fell sharply.

The pound was also nearly a cent down against the dollar, which itself saw-sawed all day as investors continued to favour high-quality currencies, particularly the mark.

Sterling was not alone in its troubles against the German currency. The Irish punt marked St Patrick's Day by falling to a new record low, dragged down by sterling, and the Italian lira slumped to a new low although Lamberto Dini, Italy's Prime Minister, won his vote of confidence on Thursday.

Since the start of the year, sterling has fallen by almost 11 per cent against the Swiss franc and by 9.4 per cent against the mark.

Economists said they were mystified by sterling's particularly poor showing yesterday. Tony Norfield, treasury economist with ABN-Amro, noted that the pound also hit a record low against the French franc. "People may argue that the pound is saddled with

Europe's more obvious "soft currencies", such as the Spanish peseta and the lira, which are saddled with far more intractable political and economic problems.

Although the pound has, to a large extent, been caught in the crossfire between an ailing dollar and a surging mark, it is a remarkable fact that, since the turn of the year, it has lost 6 per cent against the Portuguese escudo and about 1 per cent against the peseta, both of which have been devalued. Sterling has risen in value only against the lira (gaining 5.9 per cent) and the dollar (gaining 1.9 per cent).

The dollar and the pound remained weak yesterday in spite of remarks in a speech by Hans Tietmeyer, the Bundesbank president, who said that there might yet be an opportunity for another rate cut in this business cycle.

Herr Tietmeyer made a similar suggestion a week ago, and yet the Bundesbank made no move on rates at its policy-making council on Thursday. Analysts remain sceptical about whether the German central bank is prepared to compromise domestic monetary policy in order to help weaker currencies and argued that remarks such as yesterday's are a purely verbal attempt to calm the markets.

As sterling continued to crumble, Tim Fox, a Credit Suisse currency economist, said: "I can't see anything that is imminent that is going to change the drift, and, on that basis, new lows don't seem out of the question."

David Cocker, Chemical Bank currency strategist, said: "Investors have no confidence in any currencies except the Swiss franc, the deutschmark and, to a lesser extent, the yen."

political uncertainty, but the political situation in France, with an election coming up, is far worse," he said. "The pound's weakness really is an anomaly."

A Gallup poll published yesterday, indicating a further decline in consumer confidence, and other figures issued recently suggest that the economic recovery is decelerating. This has convinced the markets that another base rate rise is uncertain and may, at least, be some way off and so has removed one source of protection for sterling.

However, underlying the negative perception of the pound is a sense that the Government is drifting aimlessly and will continue to do so for another 18 months until it is forced to fight an election. Such political worries have condemned the pound to the same vulnerability as some of



Martin Edwards, chairman, at the Old Trafford ground

Manchester United to create £28m super stand

By SUSAN GILCHRIST

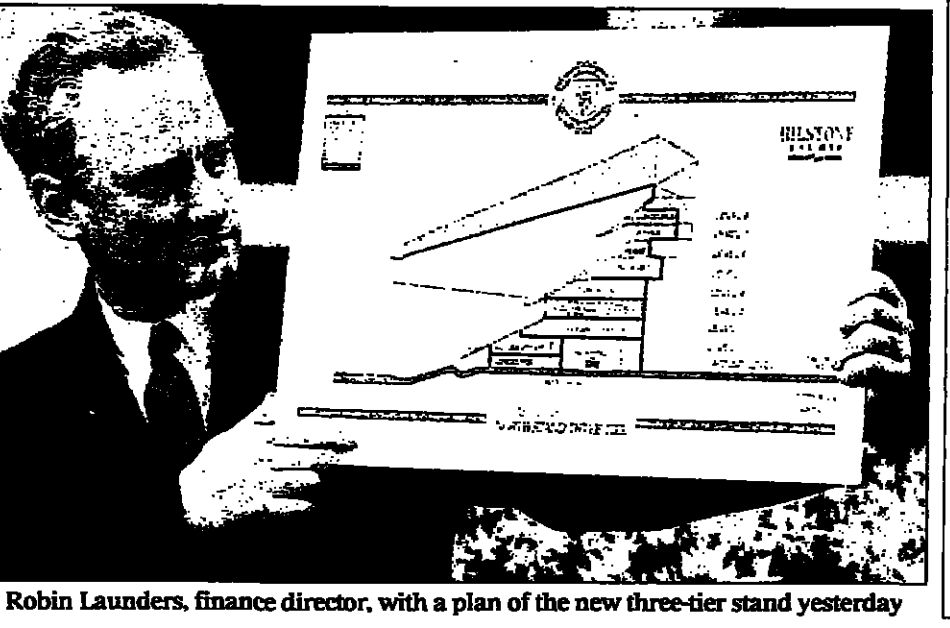
MANCHESTER UNITED is to create the biggest stadium in British club football with the extension of the North Stand at its Old Trafford ground.

The group plans to spend almost £28 million redeveloping the North Stand and buying adjacent land in a move which will increase capacity from 44,000 to 55,300 seats.

It will also add 32 new private boxes and create 80,000 sq ft of space which could be used for restaurants and other facilities.

Some £9.1 million of the £28 million will be used to buy the 20-acre trading estate to the west and north of the stadium. A small part of it will be used to expand the stadium and create a triple-decker North Stand in a project costing £18.65 million. The group will collect rental income of about £600,000 a year on the rest of the trading estate, which houses 45 units including the club's own shop.

Work will begin in May and is expected to be complete within a year.



Robin Launders, finance director, with a plan of the new three-tier stand yesterday

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Fishing for income after the Barings collapse

BUSINESS TODAY

FT-SE 100	3088.3	(-4.8)
Yield	4.41%	
FT-SE All share	1513.3	(-0.28)
Nikkei	18251.25	(-104.45)
New York		
Dow Jones	4055.35	(-3.25)
S&P Composite	485.21	(-0.20)
3-mth Interbank	6 1/8%	(8 1/8%)
Life long gilt	10 1/2%	(10 3/4%)
3-mth Interbank	6 1/8%	(8 1/8%)
Life long gilt	10 1/2%	(10 3/4%)
New York		
\$ London	1.5820	(1.5885)
DM	1.5825	(1.5855)
FF	2.1910	(2.2171)
DM	7.2340	(7.2520)
FF	7.2250	(7.2425)
Yen	140.92	(143.13)
S Index	84.4	(84.6)
Tokyo close Yen 90.05		
Brent 15-day (Jun)	\$16.55	(N/A)
London close	\$83.15	(\$83.65)

Fisons agrees to sell R&D operations for £202m

By COLIN NARBROUGH

FIONS, the pharmaceutical group, is to shed another hefty chunk of its business through the cash sale of its research and development arm to Astra, a Swedish company, for £202 million.

Stuart Wallis, who took over as Fisons' chief executive last September, initiated the first stage of a radical reshaping of the company two weeks ago with the disposal of its loss-making scientific instruments business, also for £202 million, to Thermo Instrument Systems of America.

Yesterday, he described the agreed sale of the R&D operations at Loughborough, Leicestershire and Rochester, New York State as "absolutely the perfect deal".

The proceeds, combined with those from the sale of the scientific instruments business, plus another £200 million expected from the intended sale of the laboratory supplies business, would eliminate Fisons' net debt and put it £400 million in the black, industry analysts estimate.

Astra agreed to take on responsibility for the R&D businesses' outstanding capital and revenue commitments. The book value of land, buildings and equipment in the deal is £115 million.

Fisons will retain rights to certain respiratory products, delivery devices and respiratory compounds now in development. Of the 1,100 workforce at Loughborough and Rochester, Fisons will retain 200 involved in the respiratory field, the company's main area of expertise.

Fisons will receive royalties on the net sales of all products derived from patented entities in research and compounds that it currently has in exploratory or full development, as well as from products that use non-CFC respiratory technology.

Mr Wallis said his strategy was to make Fisons a market-led pharmaceutical company with its short-term focus in the respiratory area. With the improvement to Fisons' bottom line, a substantial amount of cash and a good royalty stream, the company now had a "great opportunity to expand", he said, adding that any acquisition was likely to be multinational.

Tempus, page 26



Wallis: "the perfect deal"

Panel rejects Trafalgar bid appeal

By OUR CITY STAFF

SHARES in Northern Electric tumbled 54p to 727p after a full meeting of the Takeover Panel finally rejected Trafalgar House's attempted £1 billion takeover bid, which has been strongly resisted by the Northern board.

An earlier bid of £11 a share from the shipping-to-engineering conglomerate lapsed a week ago after share prices in the sector fell sharply on the surprise intervention of the industry regulator.

Trafalgar had been trying all week to revive its offer at a lower price, but under City takeover rules this would require the blessing of the Northern board, which was refused until the regulator had finally ruled on electricity prices.

The bidder had made a final appeal to a full Takeover Panel, asking for a finite period to be set beyond which Trafalgar could renew its offer. The Panel met yesterday, but dismissed the appeal.

Davis tipped to be man for Pru

By MARTIN WALLER

PETER DAVIS, a man with more experience than most of the inside of headhunters' offices since he hurriedly quit the chair of Reed International last summer, may finally have found a resting place.

Mr Davis is tipped as the new chief executive of the Prudential, Britain's largest insurer, filling the space vacated by Mick Newmarch, who quit after a Stock Exchange investigation into his share options.

It is the fourth time Mr Davis has been rumoured to be about to head up a big British company, but this time the rumours are likely to prove true. A spokesman for the Pru would not confirm the news. He said: "We are carrying on with the search for a chief executive, and when we have made a decision, we will make an announcement." But it is believed Mr Davis's appointment could come as soon as Tuesday, when the Pru is due to announce results for 1994.

Mr Davis quit Reed after a boardroom row with a £2 million payoff, just after joining the board of the Pru as a non-executive director. Since then he has been three times the bridesmaid. He is thought to have turned down another job in insurance, as chairman of Willis Corroon, the broker. He was widely tipped as the new head of Saatchi & Saatchi, which this week changed its name to Cordiant, and he has also been mentioned as the possible chairman-to-be of Kingfisher, the Woolworths retailer. If he gets the top job at the Pru he will have beaten two other strong contenders, John Reeve, managing director of Sun Life Corporation, and Michael Hephner, managing director of BT. It would also mark the appointment of someone with no strong insurance background, but with experience in marketing — Mr Davis is a former marketing director of Sainsbury.

He was known in his time at Reed for his abrasive style, but observers say he would appear ebullient by comparison with his predecessor, Mr Newmarch, who waged war on a number of fronts with City regulators. The Pru is operating under a tight deadline in its search for a new boss. Sir Brian Corby, the chairman, stepped in as acting chief executive after Mr Newmarch's departure, but is set to retire at the end of May.

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Roxspur and Wills to merge

Roxspur and Wills Group are to merge, combining interests in the manufacture and supply of temperature sensors and instrumentation for fluid measurement and control.

A recommended offer by Roxspur values Wills at £27.6 million. It offers 85 new Roxspur shares for every 100 Wills shares, valuing each Wills share at 15.7p. There is a partial cash alternative of 16p.

Wills shareholders will also be entitled to keep an interim dividend of 0.115p a share. Wills yesterday reported half-year pre-tax profits of £650,000, up from £575,000 previously.

Roxspur is raising £11.5 million via a placing and open offer to implement the partial cash alternative. Its shares fell 4p to 142p.

Perry ahead

Perry Group, the motor dealer and crash repairer, lifted new vehicle sales by 6.8 per cent last year, in line with the market. Pre-tax profits eased to £5.07 million, from £5.16 million. However, the previous year included a £1.85 million surplus on property sales. A final dividend of 4.75p makes 7.5p (7p), payable from earnings of 13.3p a share (18.2p).

Siebe jumps

Shares in Siebe jumped 16p to 545p after the engineering group announced big orders and gains in market share, with a 35 per cent rise in orders at the Control Systems Division.

Tempus, page 26

Dux resigns

John Dux, managing director of News International Newspapers, parent company of *The Times*, resigned yesterday by mutual agreement with the company. Mr Dux, 42, who joined News International in 1990, will be replaced with immediate effect by Doug Flynn, 45, who joined the company in 1994 as general manager and deputy managing director. Bill O'Neill, chief executive of News International, said: "The current success of News International's newspapers stands as a testament to John's invaluable contribution to the company in the last few years. He leaves with the warm good wishes of his colleagues; I wish him well in all his future activities." August Fischer, former chief executive of News International, has also resigned from the boards of The News Corporation, News International and BSkyB, the satellite television company.

Monks proposes company law reform

By PHILIP BASSETT
INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

VOLUNTARY regulation of companies' own governance has failed, and should be reformed as part of improving Britain's competitiveness and economic performance, the leader of Britain's trade unions said yesterday.

John Monks, General Secretary of the Trades Union Congress, said that the "highly political" issue of corporate governance was now "ripe for reform".

Speaking to a business audience at a Pensions and Investment Research Consultants' conference, Mr Monks

said the recent outcry about the pay of top directors suggested that voluntary regulation of companies' operations had failed, and there was now a clear need to reform company law.

Arguing in favour of the "stakeholder" model of company structures, in which customers, suppliers, employees and the wider community have a role in companies as well as shareholders, Mr Monks said that such a way of organising companies would have played a significant part in some recent business events.

He said: "What I think I can say with some certainty is that the stakeholder model I have outlined, supported by committed shareholding and

effective regulation, would have acted as a powerful deterrent to the proposed takeover of Northern Electric."

Equally, he said, the stakeholder model "would have imposed some restraint on what the Prime Minister has described as 'distasteful' increases in executive pay."

The stakeholder model was one of three principal ingredients for a new form of corporate governance being put forward by the unions which would, if adopted, address many of the problems of endemic short-termism.

In addition to the stakeholder notion, this would include minimum labour standards as a public policy recognition that there was no future

for Britain in a low-skill, low-pay, low-productivity economy, and European-style social partnership between employers and employees.

Providing this was based on a guarantee of job security in return for skill flexibility, this would allow change to be negotiated in an "atmosphere free from acrimony".

In more political terms, Mr Monks also hinted that the corporate stakeholder model "represents a way through what some have seen as an ideological impasse for centre-left parties" — what was taken to be a reference to the Labour party's move away from Clause IV-style common ownership.

SE comes under fire from Carsberg

By CARL MORTIMER

THE Stock Exchange's control over screen-based share trading in London through SEAO is under threat after a report from the Office of Fair Trading found that Stock Exchange privileges for market-makers are significantly anti-competitive.

The OFT's intervention will be welcomed by rival screen-based trading systems which are seeking to take business from SEAO, the Stock Exchange Automated Quotation System. SEAO accounts for more than 95 per cent of transactions.

The report from Sir Bryan Carsberg, Director-General of the OFT, to the Chancellor of the Exchequer criticises a Stock Exchange rule that prevents market-makers from displaying better prices on other screens than they display on SEAO. Other anti-competitive practices criticised by Sir Bryan include the exclusive access by SEAO market-makers to prices displayed on the inter dealer broker networks and market-makers' exclusive right to display prices on SEAO.

SEAO's dominance of screen-based trading is being challenged by order-driven systems such as Reuters's Instinet and Tradepoint, an independent. SEAO requires market-makers to provide a firm quote at which they must deal, while order-driven systems typically allow brokers to deal directly with each other by matching orders to buy and sell, without the need of a market-maker.

Sir Bryan said he was aware of the debate on the merits of quote-driven and order-driven markets. "It is not my role to advocate either system, but I am concerned that the development of order-driven markets

in London should not be artificially inhibited by rules which limit the business they can attract."

The OFT said the Director-General had received a complaint about the privileges from a market participant. Market-makers generally deal at more competitive prices than those quoted in the bid/ask spread displayed on SEAO but they are unable to post orders at those prices on other systems without narrowing the price spread on SEAO, a move that could increase their risk.

The OFT said yesterday that rival trading systems needed liquidity to succeed. "If you are cutting off orders from market-makers, it makes it hard to get liquidity," it said.

The OFT report comes at the same time as the Securities and Investments Board's review of equity market-making and follows an OFT report to the Chancellor last November on trade publication rules.

Instinet, which is a member of the London Stock Exchange, has lobbied for changes to the rules. Harlan Flint, director of Instinet UK, said: "We have been asking the London Stock Exchange to give us the same privileges as other agency brokers. We want the rules to be fair."

Rival exchanges are also keen to obtain more transparency in publication of prices.

The Chancellor has powers to alter the Stock Exchange rules if competition is being restricted or distorted, but he is likely to await the conclusion of the SIB's review of market-making before making any decision.

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Peter Greenwood, managing director, left, Michael Orr, and Hamish McPhie, finance director

Molins rides Brazilian blow

By ERIC REGULY

MOLINS, the cigarette machinery maker, said record orders combined with contributions from its latest acquisition boosted earnings substantially in 1994, in spite of a downturn in its Brazilian business.

Pre-tax profits rose 16 per cent to £23.6 million, while earnings per share increased 14 per cent to 56.6p. Turnover was £223.9 million, up 10 per cent.

Molins said profits would

have been greater but for a reversal of fortunes in Brazil, where economic turmoil led to vastly increased labour costs and reduced demand.

The Brazilian operations are thought to have gone from profits in excess of £1 million to losses of £1 million or more. Michael Orr, chairman, would not comment.

Mr Orr said he expects Sandiacre, a manufacturer of packaging machinery for food and consumer goods, to

make a strong contribution to earnings in 1995. Bought in November for £28 million, Sandiacre saw a £900,000 profit by the end of the year.

Molins intends to push Sandiacre's products into foreign markets, notably China, which is the company's single biggest market for cigarette machinery.

Mr Orr said the outlook for 1995 is encouraging, with the order book for tobacco machinery full into next year.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

PDFM holds key stake in AAH bid

PDFM, the fund managers, are in a powerful position to influence the outcome of the £377 million bid for AAH, the pharmaceutical distributor, by German rival Gehe. The fund managers, owned by Union Bank of Switzerland, controls 17.2 per cent of AAH and is the largest stakeholder, well ahead of Schroder Investment Management, which owns 8 per cent. AAH's directors have negligible holdings. The Swiss-owned fund manager was buying heavily during the second half of last year as the shares fell below 450p, with further purchases in January and February.

AAH yesterday forecast that pre-tax profits for the year to March 31 would be £29 million (£39 million) after losses of £3 million from its troubled environmental services business which is being sold. AAH called said Gehe's 420p a share offer was "a cut-price bid for market leadership". John Padovan, chairman of AAH, said Gehe's offer would deny shareholders the benefits of margin enhancement from modernisation.

US buy lifts Wassall

WASSALL, the industrial group, is "very positive" about prospects after a strong profits rise. A £17.9 million contribution from General Cable, the US wire producer acquired in June, saw Wassall's annual pre-tax profits before exceptional charges jump 51 per cent to £41.8 million. Pre-tax profits fell to £21.9 million (£27.6 million) after General Cable reorganisation costs. A 2.95p final (2.33p) lifts total payout to 4.1p (3.3p adjusted for a 1-for-4 rights). Tempus, page 26

Cairn in shares sale

CAIRN ENERGY, the Edinburgh-based oil exploration company, raised net profits from £2.3 million to £5.3 million after the sale of 4.75 million shares in Cairn Energy USA, its former subsidiary. The sale generated a £9.2 million exceptional gain, and Cairn's remaining 17.5 per cent holding was valued at £14.5 million at the end of December. Funds from the sale were reinvested in onshore UK fields. There is again no dividend.

Brunel back to black

REDUCED debts, an absence of exceptional charges, and a £12.2 million gain from the acquisition of minority interests helped Brunel Holdings, the engineering conglomerate formerly known as BM Group, to return to the black. Pre-tax profits were £12.6 million in the six months to December 31, compared with a provision-driven loss of £14.2 million. Turnover, affected by discontinued operations, fell to £87 million (£232 million). There is again no interim dividend.

Allders quits takeover

ALLDERS, the department store to duty-free retailer, has pulled its £15 million takeover bid for MS McLeod Holdings, Australia's largest duty-free shopping group. The decision to withdraw the offer followed the launch of a higher counter-bid by Swissair. The airline offered A\$1.07 (49p) a share, just above Allders' bid of A\$1 a share made last month. Swissair also bought an option over 19.9 per cent of McLeod's shares. Allders has a 4 per cent stake in McLeod to sell.

APV names new chief

APV, manufacturer of food processing equipment, has ended the search for a new chief executive by giving the job to Neil French, the finance director who has acted in the role since the departure of Clive Strowger last October. The appointment is also announced of Paul Brown, of Lucas Industries, as executive director. APV product businesses. A new finance director has yet to be appointed. On Thursday, APV is expected to announce 1994 pre-tax losses of £17.5 million.

Festive lift for Fortnum

STRONG Christmas trading helped Fortnum & Mason, the Piccadilly department store group, to lift pre-tax profits 24 per cent to £1.99 million (£1.6 million) in the 28 weeks to January 21. Garry Weston, chairman, said sales over the crucial Christmas period rose 10 per cent. It followed a hesitant start to the year, with trading affected by rail strikes and the hot summer. He said a more consistent first-half sales growth pattern had been achieved. The interim is held at 86p.

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THE TIMES

Training videos offer

DO YOU want to make a powerful impression on your boss and be influential in your office? *Winning Ways*, a training video featuring the late Brian Redhead, tells you how.

In a witty and penetrating conversation Redhead and Andrew Kakabadse, professor of management at Cranfield School of Management, make points which are vital to people who work for organisations and are deeply interested in enhancing their careers.

Another video, *Mentoring*, explores one of the fastest-growing methods of developing people within a business.

Mentoring is a way in which experienced staff help other people through transition periods, perhaps by showing them new skills or by helping them adjust to a new job.

Winning Ways runs for 27 minutes. *Mentoring* for more than 19 minutes. These videos are normally sold at £49 each. *Times* readers can buy them for the special price of £49 for two, inclusive of post and packing.

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Denmark Kr	9.54	8.74
Finland Mk	7.49	6.54
France Fr	8.35	7.70
Germany Dm	2.37	2.16
Greece Dr	379.00	354.00
Hong Kong \$	12.93	11.93
Ireland Pt	1.05	0.97
Israel	5.2324	4.4824
Italy Lira	2785.00	2630.00
Japan Yen	159.50	140.50
Malta	0.599	0.543
Netherlands Gld	2.641	2.411
Norway Kr	10.52	9.72
Portugal Esc	246.50	228.00
S Africa Rd	ref.	5.28
Spain Pta	211.00	198.00
Sweden Kr	12.07	11.27
Switzerland Fr	1.98	1.80
Turkey Lira	ref.	64322.0
USA \$	1.887	1.557

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THE TIMES LITERARY SUPPLEMENT

Barings proves excess baggage for men with a mission to sell the City

Doing the rounds for the Square Mile

Jon Ashworth trails the team behind the City Research Project as they travel around the world in eight days

When a high-powered team jetted off on Concorde this week to sing the City's praises around the globe, they were flying into uncharted skies. The Barings collapse and the electricity price dispute would bring turbulence at the very least — and perhaps much worse. No amount of academic research glorifying London could quite dispel the notion that all was not well in the Square Mile.

In the event, London's flag-waving team had a fairly easy ride. They sped through New York, en route to Japan and Hong Kong, with only a ripple of disturbance from hard-nosed Wall Street bankers. It was the money men in Tokyo who caused the greatest headaches for our two very different ambassadors, Michael Cassidy and Stanislas Yassukovich.

London's champions left Heathrow on Monday with more than a mere mix of supersonic thrust behind them. Tucked in the hold were dozens of copies of a weighty blue book — the product of three years' research into the City's standing as a world financial centre. By Friday, copies of the report were lining desks from Manhattan to Ginza. Bemused foreigners were left with little doubt that London was holding its own — but was all the fuss really necessary?

Most definitely, argues Mr Cassidy, policy chairman at the Corporation of London, the local authority for the Square Mile. This is no mere PR exercise, he insists. For the first time, London has a definitive document on which to draw — one that highlights both pitfalls and strengths. The £15 million cost of the City Research Project (CRP) was worth every penny, even down to round-the-world, first-class air tickets at £6,000 a head. Tackle four cities in eight days and you need to travel in style.

Not that our heroes had much time to enjoy the frills. The luxury of New York's St Regis Hotel (butlers and gold-plated taps) gave

way to the squeaky efficiency of the Imperial in Tokyo in a blur of stretch limousines, luggage trolleys and mind-numbing time changes. Noon in New York on Wednesday became Thursday evening in Tokyo in the twinkling of a bloodshot eye. Such are the delights of the international jet set.

The hop to New York was all in a day's work for Mr Yassukovich, the urbane polo-playing banker who presided over the report. He regularly used Concorde when running the European arm of Merrill Lynch in the Eighties. The experience may have been more novel for Professor Richard Brealey, the London Business School academic who compiled the CRP report and rode along for the New York leg of the trip.

Eminent guests, ranging from the chairman of Morgan Stanley to the president of the New York Clearing House, were treated to a familiar litany of how London remains a major international crossroads and how its diverse workforce makes it unique. As Mr Yassukovich put it: "We are here basically to tell you that you have backed the right horse and it's still winning."

But of course there are problems — the horse is a little lame. What about the traffic congestion, the bankers asked? What about the interfering hand of Brussels?

Mr Cassidy was ready for them. Yes, there were negatives. Changes in taxation and regulation could drive business offshore. Finding the money to keep London's traffic flowing was no easy task.

It fell to a rain-swept Tokyo, however, to deliver the real punches.

The continuing fallout from the Barings collapse. Reactions ranged from disbelief that the Bank of England failed to step in to growing concern over the lack of international co-operation between regulators.

There was no quarter for the banner-waving team from the City as it arrived on the second leg of its global roadshow. What was the



Flying the flag for the City: Michael Cassidy, left, Professor Richard Brealey and Stanislas Yassukovich join the jet set

real impact of the collapse on the City's reputation? And what were the wider consequences for merchant banking?

Mr Yassukovich, leapt to the Old Lady's defence in talks with senior bankers. He said the decision not to attempt a rescue using public funds had been proved correct by the manner in which the market absorbed the collapse.

He said: "It shows that although it was said to lose an historic name like Barings, it was a relatively small player in the world context. No other financial centre could have worked so quickly to find a solution. It is a tribute to the speed and flexibility not only of the Bank of England but the legal system too."

Opinions are sharply divided over the collapse. The head of one local brokerage, who asked not to be named, said: "People here were very surprised and alarmed that the Bank of England didn't support Barings. It would have been un-

thinkable for this to happen in Japan — tremendous shame and loss of face."

The affair has horrified the local expert community. "Our first reaction was shellshock," said one local trader. "Barings was Britain's outpost in the Far East." The scale of Nick Leeson's disastrous punt on the Nikkei index caused widespread amazement. "Five hundred futures contracts will move the market," said one derivatives expert. "He was trading something like 20,000."

The question on everyone's lips at a power breakfast with senior bankers was: Would it not have been more useful to contrast London, Tokyo and New York, rather than simply confirming the obvious?

Here, then, is the nub of the matter. For all the world's high-tech wizardry, there is a surprising absence of data on the financial markets. Some comparisons are

possible between London and New York, on regulation for example, which tends to cost more in America, but there is little to draw Tokyo into the debate.

Mr Cassidy accepts that the report does not contain any shattering conclusions, but says this was never the aim. "We simply did not know at the outset whether it would turn out good or bad," he said, speeding over the Canadian iceflows towards the International Date Line.

"The data provides a total picture of London to help us to come up with credible facts. At the very least, it will help inform the speeches we make."

New York, for one, faces several threats to its standing as a financial centre. The difficulty of getting in to work has persuaded several firms to move to satellite locations in New Jersey and elsewhere. A quarter of buildings on Wall Street are unlet, mirroring the City's problems of the

early 1990s. The absence of a middle class — there is a huge gulf between rich and poor — makes it hard to recruit back-office staff. Manhattan does not have any form of rail link with JFK International airport, let alone a high-speed one.

In Tokyo, the problem is one of cost. High commission charges and a surfeit of red tape threaten to push business into the hands of regional competitors such as Hong Kong and Singapore. Tokyo, like New York, is driven by domestic needs — there are more local than foreign banks — and over regulation poses a growing threat. Since Singapore, like London, is primarily an international centre of finance, it can tailor its rules accordingly.

The CRP report highlights the importance of taxation and regulation, and cost of services, which is particularly relevant in high-priced Tokyo. As Mr Cassidy says: "The report does show how important these factors are in making a centre

work. Unless some changes are made in the Tokyo approach, there will be a continuing flow of business to cheaper, less tightly regulated centres in the Asian region." Local experts see this as alarmist, saying there is little evidence of a flight of business so far.

The City's flag-flying pair make eloquent ambassadors. Mr Yassukovich, a tanned and youthful 60, is a past deputy chairman of the Stock Exchange and former head of the Securities Association. Raised in America, he was posted to London in the 1960s and has since adopted the lifestyle of the quintessential English gentleman, taking British nationality and living in some splendour in Gloucestershire. He divides his time between several company boards.

Mr Cassidy, 48, knows rather more about the world of high finance than one might assume. A lawyer by training, he created the legal structure for Postel, the UK's biggest pension fund, and is a director of an investment trust with extensive venture capital interests in America.

Wearing his City hat, he paved the way for two of the Square Mile's most distinctive features: the Broadgate complex and the controversial "Ring of Steel" security cordon.

As planning chairman from 1985 to 1989, he presided over a building boom that saw a hundred cranes on the City skyline at one point. Policy chairman since 1992, he rushed in the security measures in the wake of the Bishopsgate bomb, and has embarked on a new period of glasnost, raising the City's profile and beating the drum abroad.

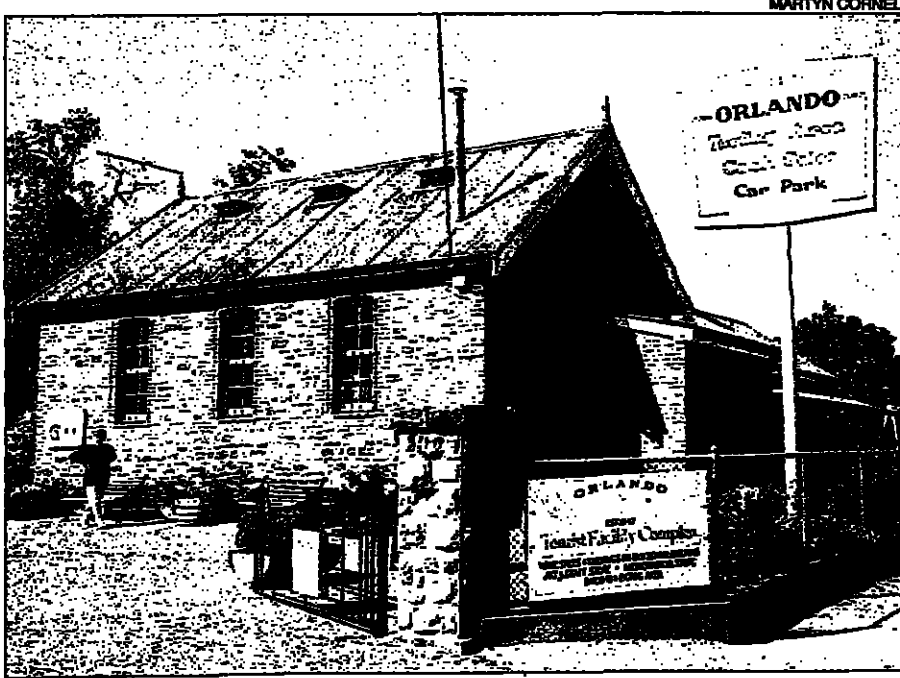
He flies on to Hong Kong to wrap up what is largely a feather-smoothing exercise, reassuring foreign players who may have doubts that they were right to choose London over Paris or Frankfurt.

Mr Yassukovich bales out at this point, happy that he has done his bit.

"I think it's been a very great success. These banks are making a pretty big bet on London, and just to tell them that we've done a health check and are still alive and kicking was good for their confidence. Obviously, it was particularly useful in the aftermath of Barings. Barings, sad as it is, is not going to have a long-term effect on London's standing as a financial centre. I think most of them accept that."

Australia's winemakers face fight for supermarket shelf

Rachel Bridge on how possible tax and drought are making vineyards Down Under fear for their exports



The home of Orlando Wines, whose chief executive fears Australia's new tax proposals

Australia's wine producers are likely to be needing a large drink themselves this weekend as they face the prospect of a new tax burden on their wines. It could not have come at a worse time for the industry, already suffering from a huge shortfall in this year's grape harvest.

Under the proposals, set out in a draft report by a committee of inquiry into the wine industry, wine would be subject to an excise duty — based on alcohol volume — as well as an existing sales tax, based on the price at which the wine is sold.

The proposals have provoked a storm of protest from the industry. Perry Gunner, chief executive of Orlando Wines, one of Australia's biggest winemakers and producer of the Jacob's Creek label, says: "Certain of the taxation recommendations would bring the Australian wine industry to its knees and severely curtail its ability to compete in international markets."

Ian Sutton, chief executive of the Winemakers Federation, adds: "The report appears to be all pain for no gain. We are currently being taxed by the most powerful force in the world, Mother Nature, which has cut the vintage by 30 per cent and will cut \$400 million (£190 million) in retail sales."

and some people fear that it could be lower than that. Coming, as it does, after three lean years, the shortfall is a hard blow for the industry.

Although the shortage of supply will not affect this year's sales, it will have a big impact next year — and possibly the year after that. One winemaker admits: "1996 and 1997 are going to be quite a challenge."

Australian winemakers are all too aware that they need to be producing more wine, not less, if they are to sustain their drive into export markets, as well as keep pace with domestic demand. Current industry forecasts suggest that it needs to be producing at least 900,000 tonnes of grapes by 1998 in order to meet demand.

The problem for Australian wine producers is that if they cannot meet the demand, there are plenty of others who can. Without enough wine to satisfy the market, Australian winemakers risk being pushed off store shelves by relative newcomers to wine-exporting, such as Chile and South Africa. The dilemma is particularly acute in the UK,

which, at 50.7 million litres, is the industry's biggest export market by far, accounting for almost half of its total exports. In the year to January, the value of exports to the UK soared by more than 12 per cent to \$176 million. One winemaker said: "The volume of Australian wine the UK consumes is enormous. It's a very important market for us."

Stephen Millar, managing director of BRL Hardy, Australia's second-biggest wine producer, which exports 800,000 cases a year to the UK, admits that the shortfall could put the industry on hold for a while. He says: "I am not trying to pretend that this is anything other than a disappointment. Clearly, it slows us down and it will make it more difficult in the short term. We won't get a share of the growth if we haven't got the wine. It will give a greater opportunity to Chilean and South African wine producers to make headway in the short term."

Indeed, the report by the committee of inquiry says: "If competitiveness is not improved, export market opportunities will be seized by traditional wine exporting nations and emerging exporters such as Chile, South Africa and some East European nations."

At the same time, the intense competition in the UK market means that Australian producers are unlikely to be able to increase their prices to compensate for the drop in volume. A spokesman for Orlando, which exports more than a million cases of Jacob's Creek to the UK each year, says: "The market for Jacob's Creek is very competitive. If we push the price up much, we're going to be losing the plot. We would be foolish if we tried to raise the price of Jacob's Creek much further than it is now."

Mr Millar, however, remains optimistic that, in the longer term, Australian wines will be able to win back the ground they lose. "We can take the next level of growth when we have the wine," he says.

Meanwhile, Australian wine producers are keeping their fingers crossed for a good crop next year.

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Managed 368

STOCK MARKET

MICHAEL CLARK

Sterling slide takes steam out of market momentum

THE expiry of the March series of financial futures passed without incident, but another slide in sterling took much of the steam out of the market's recent momentum and left share prices ending the week languishing below the 3,100 level.

An early mark-up lifted prices above the 3,100 mark, but they never looked like maintaining the pace as dealers began unwinding positions before the March expiry. Trading was subdued for the rest of the day, with investors keeping a close eye on events on the foreign exchange and New York before triple-witching hour.

The FT-SE 100 index, up more than 11 points first thing, closed 4.8 points down at 3,089.3, with 621 million shares changing hands. The rise on the week was 68.2 reflecting encouragement about the economy and the outlook for interest rates.

Northern Electric continued to lose ground, tumbling another 54p to 727p, now it is realised there is little likelihood of a new bid from Trafalgar House. Trafalgar, which lost its case before the Takeover Panel yesterday, slipped 1p to 561p.

Racal Electronics fell 5p to 232p after a downgrading by ABN Amro Hoare Govett, the broker. It is believed to have reduced its forecast for the current year by about 5 per cent, falling into line with other market estimates of around £60 million.

Revised takeover speculation lifted Kleinwort Benson 24p to 614p. Phonelink rose 24p to 232p after signing a deal allowing BT to use its Telle service and technology as a platform for on-line services. The deal will generate minimum revenue of £2.25 million in the first two years.

The restructuring continues at Fisons, with the disposal of its research and development at Loughborough in Britain and Rochester in New York to Adstra, the Swedish group, for £202 million. The group will keep certain respiratory products and compounds, but only 200 of the 1,100 staff will be retained. Earlier this month, Fisons sold its scientific instruments division for a further £202 million. Stuart Wallis, chief executive, says further disposals are planned, with the group concentrating on its core pharmaceutical business.



Sir Christopher Hogg saw Courtaulds shares drop

The shares responded with a rise of 7p to 163p.

Sieba rose 17p to 546p as brokers rounded off a week-long trip to the group's US operations. Most of them are believed to have come away impressed. The visit coincided with the announcement from the group that all three of its divisions had won a number of substantial orders recently.

Wills Group, the automotive BTR fell 10p to 321p after ABN Amro Hoare Govett, the broker, reduced its recommendation from undervalued to a hold. Analyst David Ireland says the shares have outperformed in the last quarter, reflecting the quality of recent changes. But without new earnings growth, further purchases would be difficult to justify.

and electronics group, slipped 2p to 124p after the City gave the thumbs-down to an agreed bid worth almost 16p a share from Rossport, valuing the company at £27.6 million. The terms are 85 Rossport shares for every 100 Wills. There is a partial cash alternative worth 16p a share, but shareholders will be guaranteed to receive cash for only 40 per cent of their holdings. Rossport is hoping to help fund the deal

ness continues to do well. The group has also forecast a rise in pre-tax profits from £29 million to £42 million in spite of losses of £3 million at its environmental services division. The final payout will be held at 11.9p.

Courtaulds, of which Sir Christopher Hogg is chairman, was an early casualty, dropping 16p to 436p after several brokers turned bearish of prospects for the chemi-

cal supplier. Warburg Securities has reduced its recommendation from a buy to a hold while Smith New Court has cut its pre-tax profits forecast for the current year from £167 million to £153 million and for 1996 from £205 million to £187 million. Warburg's forecasts are already on the low side, with £145 million pencilled in for 1995 and £165 million next year round.

Manchester United, the Premier League club, plans to turn its Old Trafford ground into a super stadium. It has paid £9 million for land on the north and west sides of the ground. Plans are afoot to turn the north stand into a three-tier stand at a cost of a further £18.6 million. This will increase the stadium's capacity from 44,000 to 55,300. Manchester United is also securing the freedom of its merchandising premises creating 80,000 square feet for future development.

Full-year figures from Wassall, the industrial conglomerate, showed pre-tax profits surging 51 per cent to £42 million bolstered by a first-time contribution of £18 million from General Cable, the US copper wire producer. The group said market conditions remained tough, but it has raised the dividend from 3.3p to 4.1p. The shares fell 9p to 249p.

GILT-EDGED: A further setback for the pound on currency markets and some end-of-week profit-taking prompted falls across the board. The Bank of England has pencilled in March 29, as the date for the next auction. Brokers are forecasting an issue of £2.5 billion with a redemption date somewhere between 2013 and 2017 although most are convinced it will be a further tranche of Treasury 8 per cent 2015.

In the futures pit, the June series of the Long Gilt future dropped 3p to £102½ as a total of 57,000 contracts were completed. Among conventional issues, the long end bore the brunt of losses. Treasury 8 per cent 2013 fell 1½p to 96½/16, while at the shorter end, Treasury 8 per cent 2000 was ½p off at 98½/16.

NEW YORK: Wall Street shares were lower at midday as volatility from triple-witching futures and options expirations remained the dominant force on the market. The Dow Jones industrial average was down 3.80 points to 4,065.35.

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):
Dow Jones 4065.35 (-3.80)
S&P Composite 4952.1 (-0.20)

Tokyo:
Nikkei Average 16251.22 (-104.45)

Hong Kong:
Hang Seng 8534.71 (+186.99)

Amsterdam:
EEX Index 392.80 (-0.23)

Sydney:
ASX 1921.2 (+12.3)

Frankfurt:
DAX 2005.24 (+13.18)

Singapore:
Straits 2101.83 (+25.91)

Brussels:
General 6933.08 (+51.70)

Paris:
CAC-40 1788.83 (+3.07)

Zurich:
SIX Gen 593.50 (+2.00)

London:
FT 100 3089.3 (-4.8)
FT 100 3089.3 (-4.8)
FT-SE Mid 250 3374.5 (-6.9)
FT-SE Eurotrack 100 1233.19 (-7.35)
FT A-Share 1313.96 (-0.53)
FT New Financials 1634.00 (-0.47)
FT Gold Mines n/a
FT FTSE 100 110.39 (+0.16)
FT Govt Secs 91.86 (+0.15)
Baltic Freight 697.76
SEB Volume 14500 (+0.32)
US\$ 1.5849 (+0.0029)
German Mark 2.194 (+0.0033)
Exchange Index 84.4 (-0.2)
Bank of England official close (4pm)
ECU 1.2010
ESD 1.0350
RPI 146.0 Jan (3.3%) Jan 1997-100

RECENT ISSUES

Albright & Wilson (150)	165	...
Bath Press (10)	12½	...
Beale	180	+5
Colleges	126	...
Daily Mail (128)	130	...
GET Group (125)	128	...
Geared Inv C (100)	100	...
Golden Rose Cms (135)	123	...
HTR Inc/Git Split Inc	98	+2
Ilford-Split Zero Div P	104	...
Inv Capital Ws	17	...
Inv Tst of Inv Ws	84	...
Inv Tst of Inv Ws	56	...
MCTT S Cap (35)	33	...
MCTT S Inc (35)	36	...
Metros Energy Ws	3½	...
Montanaro UK Sml Cos	93	...
Montanaro UK Sml Ws	43	...
Nat Power (p/p) (476)	170	-1
Photobank (150)	153	...
PowerGen (p/p) (512)	189½	...
Schroder Inc Grh Ws	495	...
Thrup Dual Zero Div P	101½	...
Zotefoams (145)	175	-1

RIGHTS ISSUES

Cadbury Sch Co Ltd (340)	206	+1
Cookson n/p (175)	75	-1
Dulay CV Ltd 95 n/p	23	+3
Horace Sml App (90)	35	+1
Unit Group n/p (39)	14	...
Wyke n/p (52)	14	...

MAJOR CHANGES

RISKS:		
Sieba	546p (+16p)	
Nat Asset Bank	523p (+10p)	
Wolsey	367p (+10p)	
Phonelink	202p (+28p)	
Caymore	140p (+10p)	
Melins	505p (+12p)	
FALLS:		
Courtaulds	441p (-11p)	
Takeda Chem	735p (-38p)	
Haynes Pub	288p (-20p)	
BTR	321p (-10p)	
Closing Prices Page 35		

TEMPUS

The OFT takes stock

THE poor old Stock Exchange can only stand and wring its hands as its rules and privileges come under attack from the deregulators. SEAO, the screen-based quotation system proudly launched in the 1986 Big Bang as the shiny new vehicle that would take London to a deregulated heaven, is now seen as some sort of exclusive club.

The trouble is that markets are simply the point at which buyers and sellers make contact and display the price at which they will deal; whether they are trading floors, screens or stalls in Petticoat Lane. Market-makers can currently offer keener prices to a client over the telephone than are shown in the bid/ask spread on the screen, but they are forbidden from offering that price on a rival system unless they adjust their price on SEAO. Because SEAO prices are shown in

discreet volumes, market-makers are unlikely to want to increase their exposure by offering the world the same deal that they are prepared to offer an individual client.

Trading systems should reflect the realities of the market-place and should not serve to protect the organisation that runs the market. There is no reason why the Stock Exchange should not continue to supervise trading, even if its near-monopoly over screens and systems is lost.

But what the Stock Exchange really fears is the arrival of new equity markets. An order-based system that attracted significant business and was recognised by the SIB would cause the Stock Exchange to lose its grip on the UK equity market, a loss that would be a serious blow to the bureaucrats in the Throgmorton Street tower.

Fisons

THE knee-jerk, negative reaction to Fisons' disposal of its research and development facilities is that the group is bogging the family silver in a desperate attempt to resuscitate its earnings. However, there is more to such a gutsy decision than just fire-fighting. Fisons, under the new leadership of Stuart Wallis, has realised that it can no longer afford the pretensions of being a world-class drugs company. It has fallen too far for that and there is too little in its development pipeline to fund a £70 million a year research facility.

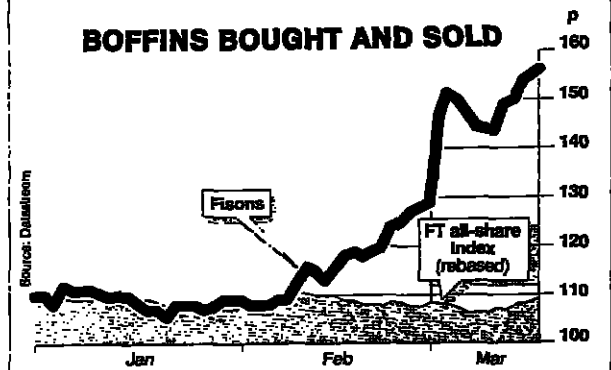
The disposal should be followed by the sale of the laboratory supplies business, leaving the group with £600 million cash and precious few businesses to manage. Mr Wallis believes he

Fisons

can fill the hole by buying drug licences from other companies unwilling to exploit them. This will have the added benefit of utilising Fisons' sales network. Finding such drugs and businesses at reasonable prices will be the difficult part, but Mr Wallis is unlikely to be turning Fisons into cash unless he has some

targets in mind. Medeva has made a good living out of the same strategy.

The shares have been substantially rerated this year, as soon as the City realised how fundamental Mr Wallis's shake-out was going to be. At 163p, they now contain a great deal of hope value and Mr Wallis will have to buy well to justify it.



Wassall

WASSALL transformed itself last year with the acquisition of General Cable and now looks more like a fully fledged conglomerate than an infant pretender. The General Cable purchase was well timed: the business was barely breaking even when it was bought, but an improvement in its markets, combined with some quick cost-cutting and a rise in copper prices, has generated a £17.9 million profit for the first seven months of ownership.

There is still much to do. Strip out the £6 million one-off profit from the appreciation in the copper stocks and General Cable is still generating a profit margin of only 3 per cent. With some more closures and investment in warehousing and distribution, it should be capable of doubling that, to produce up to £40 million a year by 1998.

As it grows, Wassall begins to look more like an industrial volume manufacturer

group, and some of its smaller commercial businesses look out of place. The group has now reached a size where some portfolio management seems due and it does not look to be a long-term holder of either Techno Pack, the bottling line builder, or even the office furniture businesses.

Such disposals would reduce Wassall's already modest 24 per cent gearing and further acquisitions cannot be ruled out, even while General Cable is still being turned round. The shares have lost much of their premium rating of late and now look inexpensive given the solid prospects for earnings growth.

Siebe

WHATEVER the charabanc full of analysts were shown on the recent Siebe company visit, it could not have been as good as the news behind the latest order book figures. The company was shy of giving

an overall total and would only give hopeful noises about reaching its target of 10 per cent organic sales growth, rather than a proper forecast. Siebe was, however, able to give hard evidence of orders in all divisions and, more important, strong demand for capital goods and components in virtually all its markets.

The petrochemical industry is gearing up for a building boom, fed by strengthening demand, particularly in the Far East. Siebe is also capturing business in the emerging consumer industries in Russia. Even more encouraging are signs that Siebe is getting more orders from the motor and construction industries. As a supplier of capital goods, Siebe has had to wait longer for the cycle to turn and for manufacturers to commit themselves to investment projects, but the signs are that its customers are finally waking up.

EDITED BY NEIL BENNETT

MOVERS OF THE WEEK

Current	Week's	Change	Notes
Northern Electric	727p	-10p	New bid denied Trafalgar
Sieba	546p	+16p	R&D business sold
Harrington Kilbride	250p	+10p	Press reports
Busfield	190p	+5p	Profits warning
Doniford	140p	+15p	Support after figures
SEET	72p	+18p	Large stake changes hands
Medeva	194p	+17p	Better than expected figures
BAA Group	450p	+8p	Price levels fixed
Coslan	150p	+2p	Kuwait stock building

COMMODITIES

LCI-LSR (London & New York)				GNI LONDON GRAIN FUTURES			
CRUDE OILS (\$/barrel FOB)				WHEAT		BARLEY	
				March 113.55		March 108.65	
Brent Physical	16.55	IN/CO		July 113.75		July 108.75	
Brent 15 Day (Jury)	16.05	IN/CO		Nov 114.00		Nov 109.00	
Brent 15 Day (Jury)	16.05	IN/CO		Sep 102.30		Sep 103.45	
WT Intermediate (Jury)	16.05	IN/CO		Nov 102.30		Nov 103.45	
WT Texas Intermediate (Jury)	18.15	IN/CO		Volume 512		Volume 47	
PRODUCTS (\$/MT)							
Spot CIF NW Europe (prompt delivery)							
Premiums (C to B) 1975-76	146.11	146.11					
Gas Oil	147.11	146.11					
Mar 1975-76	146.11	146.11					
Nov 1975-76	146.11	146.11					
3.5 Fuel Oil	146.11	146.11					
Naptha	172.11	172.11					
IPE FUTURES (GNI L&S)				RUBBER (GNI 1975 Ctr 4)			
L&S Oil				Apr 122.35-123.75			
Apr	144.50-45.75	147.25-47.50					
Jun	144.50-45.75	147.25-47.50					
Aug	144.50-45.75	147.25-47.50					
Oct	144.50-45.75	147.25-47.50					
Dec	144.50-45.75	147.25-47.50					
BRENT (\$/bbl)				BIFRICE (GNI L&S \$/bbl)			
Mar	16.61-16.62	16.45-16.47					
May	16.61-16.62	16.45-16.47					
Jul	16.61-16.62	16.45-16.47					
Sep	16.61-16.62	16.45-16.47					
Nov	16.61-16.62	16.45-16.47					
Dec	16.61-16.62	16.45-16.47					
				Index 236.6-15			
LONDON METAL EXCHANGE				Ranchford Wells			
Cash 2000-580.50				Cash 2000-580.50			
Mar 2000-580.50				Mar 2000-580.50			
May 2000-580.50				May 2000-580.50			
Jul 2000-580.50				Jul 2000-580.50			
Sep 2000-580.50				Sep 2000-580.50			
Nov 2000-580.50				Nov 2000-580.50			
Dec 2000-580.50				Dec 2000-580.50			

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Sara McConnell reports on a controversial line on negative-equity insurance

Cover adds up at Union Finance

Union Finance, the controversial Southern debt counsellor which charges £350 to tell borrowers with negative equity that they will not be pursued if they hand back their keys, is now asking borrowers for a further £100 for insurance which they say will pay up if borrowers are pursued. The insurer is an offshore company, not regulated in the UK. Its registered office is in Uruguay.

Union Finance's activities have been causing concern to housing advisers, trading standards officers and lenders since last summer. Borrowers with negative equity, but mostly not in arrears with their payments, have been handing back their keys after being told by Union Finance that they could not be pursued for their debt. Lenders disagree with Union Finance and say they are pursuing borrowers, many of whom face larger

debts as a result of Union Finance's advice. Nationwide is one of several lenders now pursuing borrowers who followed Union Finance advice to return their keys.

John Sheppard, director at Union Finance, this week denied the company had started selling insurance because it could not stop lenders chasing defaulting borrowers. "The important thing is, we were told we had to take professional indemnity insurance. Because of what we do, that might be quite difficult. This [the insurance] replaces a professional indemnity. Because people say, what happens if Union Finance isn't here, what happens if it goes into liquidation? Well here's your protection... We haven't changed our stance, we've gone in a different direction."

But anyone taking out the insurance will have no protection if the policy fails to pay



John Sheppard, left, and Peter Walker, of Union Finance

claims. It is underwritten by First Insurance Company, an offshore company registered in Uruguay. This company is not authorised by the Department of Trade and Industry and its policyholders are, therefore, not covered by the Policyholders Protection Act,

which pays compensation to those facing losses as the result of an insurer's collapse. This latest revelation is certain to add to growing concern that Union Finance appears to be able to operate legally without being regulated by anyone except local trading standards officers under the Consumer Credit Act.

The DTI admits it is powerless to act to protect consumers under existing insurance legislation. The department, which regulates and monitors insurance company solvency, said this week that First Insurance did not have to be authorised in the UK unless it could be shown the company was "carrying on insurance business" here, including accepting premiums and issuing policies. It can underwrite policies for sale to British consumers without being authorised.

The DTI said: "There is nothing to stop them using the UK as a base as long as it is just a mailing address."

First Insurance has an office in London, but John Fallon, a financial adviser who answered the telephone at the London office, said all business was carried out offshore. He refused to give *The Times* any information about the

company's business, or how long it had been in existence, saying this was "confidential". He also said the company had offices all round the world, but refused to say where these were. Asked if he was based in London, Mr Fallon said: "I am not based anywhere."

Two people have already taken out insurance through Union Finance, paying premiums of £100 for £15,000 worth of cover. This is the average amount of negative equity Union Finance clients have. Roger Boulton, a consultant to Union Finance, who arranged the policy with First Insurance, confirmed that the customers had made their cheques out to First Insurance.

Union Finance promises borrowers with negative equity that they can move house and pay off their shortfall by claiming on their mortgage indemnity insurance.

Borrowers wanting loans of more than 75 per cent of the property's value have to take this insurance when they take out their mortgage. But the insurance pays out to the lender if the borrower defaults and the property has to be sold for less than the mortgage. The insurer can then chase the borrower for the money it has had to pay out to the lender. If the payout under the policy does not cover the whole shortfall, lenders can chase borrowers for any other outstanding debt. Both lenders and insurers have up to 12 years to chase defaulting borrowers.

Lenders insist that mortgage indemnity insurance is for their benefit, but Union Finance argues that some policies written before 1992 are worded so that the borrower benefits, not the lender. If this is the case, insurers cannot chase borrowers for money they have paid out as the borrower is the policyholder in the first place, says Union Finance. So far neither of these interpretations has been tested in court.

Lenders admit they can do nothing to stop Union Finance unless one of their number takes a Union Finance client to court and gets a ruling on the meaning of the mortgage indemnity policy. None of them has yet done so, although several are said to be preparing cases.

A look at tax loopholes

STEFAN Bernstein, a tax expert, wrote *Loopholes for the Ordinary Taxpayer* for the "ordinary, honest and average earner", someone who just fills in the forms and pays the tax (Morag Preston writes).

Mr Bernstein includes chapters on income tax, national insurance, capital gains tax and inheritance tax. The book looks at the opportunities for corporations, clubs and societies to improve their financial positions, but it is perhaps most suitable for the family man with dependants.

The book answers basic questions that could help you to increase your net income

through careful planning. And under the direction of Sam Weren, author of *The National Lottery Book* and presenter on *The National Lottery Live*, the guide aims to destroy the idea that only the rich can take advantage of existing tax loopholes.

Wild schemes and untried strategies are scorned. The book includes case studies, anecdotes, legal cases, and a comprehensive glossary.

Mr Bernstein says: "It could provide a rebate or certainly a welcome additional income of a few hundred, even thousands pounds."

Loopholes for the Ordinary Taxpayer (Take That Ltd: £4.99).

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Investors suffer that shrinking feeling

Whenever Warren Buffett is asked how he managed to amass a \$9 billion fortune, the fabled moneybags from Omaha, Nebraska, cites as his guiding principle "lethargy bordering on sloth".

He is not entirely bluffing. Mr Buffett prides himself on sitting tight in his investments, paying no heed to swings of the stock market.

But, although he likes to be seen as a Norman Rockwell-style tycoon lounging on his porch, the truth is more complex. Although he takes a long-term view, he also painstakingly researches a business before committing a cent. Somehow one suspects that if Mr Buffett were using his skills to invest thousands, rather than millions, with-profits bonds would not have been high on his list.

As we report on page 30, at



COMMENT

ANNE ASHWORTH
Personal Finance
Editor

least £4 billion worth of British savings are currently stashed in these single-premium policies, energetically sold in the early Nineties to disaffected building society customers. The exciting but not exactly specific words "with profits", redolent of insurance company solidity, clinched many the deal.

The sceptical Mr Buffett would at first have been suspicious of the salesman's pitch, guessing that, whereas the middleman's reward was

assured, the investor's final payout was more uncertain. This assumption would have been well founded, thanks to the MVA, not a hitherto unpublicised food additive, but the market value adjustment, a clever contrivance that can shrink your capital.

Bonuses are added to a with-profits bond, supposedly increasing its value. But if you are unfortunate enough to cash in your investment when markets are falling, then the MVA may be applied, reduc-

ing your return. With profits may be a misnomer.

Investors who are now wishing that they had inquired more closely about this piece of small print have one comfort. Occasionally, even enthusiasts for detail like Mr Buffett can err. This week, he wrote down the value of his stake in troubled USAir by £163 million.

Fighting on

THE first skirmish in the fight for improved pension rights for war widows has ended in victory. But the campaign is not yet at an end. When the Pensions Bill reaches the Commons next month, the barrage will begin anew.

The concessions won this week in the Lords do not cover women who lost their service men husbands after 1973 and receive most of their pension

from the Ministry of Defence, not the Department of Social Security.

If they remarry, their pensions are immediately taken away. If these marriages end, they can apply to have their pensions restored, but must undergo a means test.

The Government's current attitude towards these women is based on an outmoded view of both women and pensions. It sees women as financially dependent on men and pensions as a gift, rather than as an entitlement.

Specialists will often refer to pensions as "deferred pay". During their working lives, those in the services, like other employees, give up a portion of their earnings to make provision for their old age and their dependants. This investment should not be snatched away under a bureaucratic pretext.

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War widows win a battle

Jenny Grove looks at the plight of widows bereaved since 1973

War widows face the prospect of a better future, thanks to a defeat inflicted on the Government in the House of Lords.

Lord Freyberg, a 24-year-old sculptor, persuaded the Lords to pass an amendment to the Pensions Bill that could restore Department of Social Security pensions to war widows if they are widowed or divorced for a second time. The grandson of a VC hero who fought at Gallipoli, he has made the plight of war widows his special concern.

But even if the Bill is not reversed in the Commons, it will still not deal even-handedly with all cases. Older war widows will benefit more than younger ones. Women whose husbands were killed after 1973 receive only part of their pension from the DSS.

Yvonne Feathers, first widow in the Second World War and then divorced by her second husband, does stand to benefit. An anomaly in government policy means that widows of servicemen who died before 1973, and who then subsequently remarried and divorced, are left without any pension, regardless of circumstances. Only if they are left as widows for a second time do they have a chance of their military pension being restored — and then, only by

undergoing a means test and demonstrating financial hardship. Up until now, Mrs Feathers, who is in her seventies, has been denied even this opportunity, as her second marriage ended in divorce, not in death.

In July 1943, Mrs Feathers's first husband, Captain Jack Feathers, escaped from the Burma railway. He died in the jungle and was posthumously mentioned in dispatches.

Mrs Feathers's second husband deserted her in 1980. Six years later, ill-health forced her to give up work. Buying a tiny flat in Surrey took most of her savings. She says: "I hope Lord Freyberg's move succeeds. I have to go very carefully with money as things stand. There's no room for extras such as holidays or entertaining — or even clothes in any great degree."

But for Anne Lennox, 38, widow of Squadron Leader Garry Lennox, a tornado pilot killed in the Gulf in 1991, the proposal is only a small step in the right direction. Mrs Lennox, who lives in Saxton, West Yorkshire, says: "The scheme would 'take one of the worries away. But the DSS pay only a small part of my pension."

A quirk in the rules means that, as a war widow whose husband died after 1973, the



Anne Lennox says she will have to think long and hard about any relationship

bulk of her military pension is paid by the Ministry of Defence. That anomaly aside, Mrs Lennox still believes that women in her position are treated unfairly. She considers they should be entitled to a pension for life and not forfeit it on remarriage.

"You'd have to think very long and hard about striking up a relationship with anybody, because you'd have so much to lose," she says. "I have two small children (Rachel, 5, and Matthew, 4) so financial security is important. If I remarry, I'm asked to give it all up again. Well, I'm not

going to do that lightly, am I? What I'm saying is I have a very lonely life in front of me. Considering the sacrifice my husband gave, it seems to me that the Government have got a very short memory. They are really saying they don't want me to have any chance of happiness in the future."

Mrs Jean Ford, who acts for more than 100 war widows in the Home Counties, says cohabitation as well as remarriage will result in a pension being stopped. "Pension rules forbid you to live together. If you choose to change partners every week, there's no prob-

lem. But you're banned from having a stable relationship." Major General Sir Laurence New, secretary of the Officers' Pensions Society, sees the Lords' amendment as a major advance. "I believe the Government would be ill-advised to try to reverse it."

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When saving is child's play

Banks and societies want to attract young savers. But what do they offer? David Liddament finds out

Children and teenagers need to be more careful about their money and where to keep it. The most obvious place to save is in a bank or building society, but which one?

When I went to banks and building societies near where I live in Caversham, Reading, I was looking for friendly and efficient service, wanted to know what incentives they offered for joining and, finally, the interest rate offered.

■ **Lloyds Bank:** For £10 I opened a Headway account and received a camera, a paying-in book, a wallet for credit or cash cards and a black plastic case to keep the account's paperwork. The camera is adequate for all but professional use. All of the items were given to me before I left the bank. Within a week, I was sent my PIN (personal identification number) and cash card. Lloyds send me monthly bank statements. The service is fast and efficient.

■ **TSB:** The bank offered a reasonable rate of interest on its First Save Account, a cash-card service and some money-off vouchers. The money-off vouchers require you to spend large sums before you get any discount, and it took six months and several complaints before I received them. This may have been a one-off delay. There are better offers and better interest rates at other places. I fail to see why anyone would want to say "yes" to the TSB. Since I opened the account, the free gifts have improved and the waiting time for vouchers is not quite so long.

■ **NatWest:** The free gifts for joining the Card Plus Account were a £10 HMV gift voucher and a pack of vouchers totalling £20, so it was possible to buy a compact disc without spending a penny. A cash-card service is also provided. The

service was friendly and quite fast, but, best of all, I did not need to put in a penny to open the account. To this day, it still has a nil balance. It seems like an offer you can't refuse. But the interest rate is one of the lowest of any bank.

■ **Midlands:** The interest rate on the LiveCash Account was about 2 per cent, which can easily be bettered at other places. The gifts are a few money-off vouchers. You mostly have to spend about £30 just to get £5 off. This bank offers a cash-card service and a money deposit facility, which enables you to deposit money whenever you like.

■ **Post Office:** The National Savings account I have is an investment account. This offers a very high interest rate, even higher than the Halifax (about 6.5 per cent). The drawback is that you have to give a month's notice if you wish to withdraw any money. This makes it ideal for long-term savings or for those who can't help spending money. Another point about the account is that £20 is the minimum deposit that can be made.

■ **Halifax:** This building society offers no free gifts for joining, just a relatively high interest rate on its Quest account. You can get your money out whenever you like with the cash card provided. Halifax sends accountholders a magazine called *Quest*, which contains a cooking section, interviews with pop stars, careers advice and information, competitions and features.

■ **Bardays:** You don't need a penny to open the account. In return for opening the BOP MC account you receive a £5 Our Price voucher, so, once again, it is possible to buy a whole CD or tape without spending a penny. Once again, this bank offers a cash card facility. The interest rate is low, so it would be unwise to put long-term savings in this account. The service was reasonable and the staff were friendly.

■ **Conclusion:** I found that the banks with good gifts generally offered lower interest rates. To get the best of both worlds, open all the accounts that have a good gift with the minimum amount they ask for, then open one of the high-interest rate accounts in which to put the bulk of your savings. If you need your money at the drop of a hat then the Halifax would probably be the best account, because it gives instant access to savings.

It seems like an offer you can't refuse



David Liddament, 15, shows off some of the gifts he has got from opening accounts. He lives with his parents and brother, Alan, 12, in Caversham, near Reading, and does two paper rounds that bring in £12.25 each week. He is a pupil at Chiltern Edge School, where he is studying for ten GCSEs. He has no idea what he wants to do after university but, as his abiding passion is the construction of circuit boards, it will probably be in electronics

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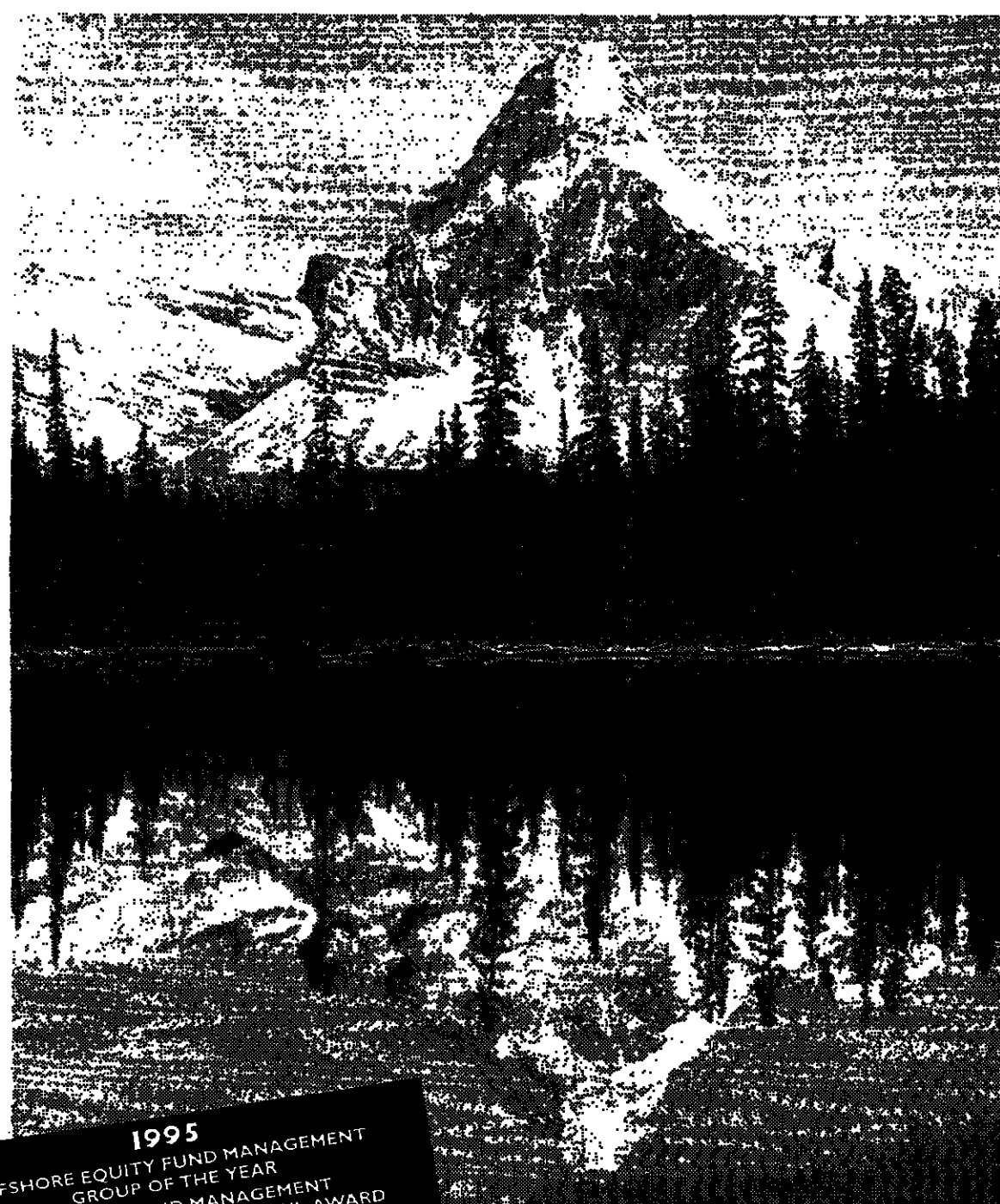
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The value of investments and any income from them may go down as well as up and an investor may not get back the amount invested. Tax assumptions may be subject to future statutory change and the value of tax savings will depend upon individual circumstances. *Estimated gross annualised yield after the fund has assumed an initial investment profile. In the period before the fund adjusts its portfolio, the yield is expected to be around 5.2%. Figures include those of FMR Corp in the US, an affiliated company. Fidelity Strategic Income Fund is a unit trust managed by Fidelity Investment Services Limited and the Fidelity PEP is offered and managed by Fidelity Investments Limited, both regulated by the Financial Services Authority.

Not so sweet charity

Robert Miller looks at charity investments in the wake of the Barings collapse



Chelsea and Westminster patients enjoy items provided by the Children's Hospital Trust Fund

Millions of people give generously to charity. Often it is through high-profile events, such as yesterday's Comic Relief. Or they support high street collection days and local fund-raising events.

But behind the army of generous donors is another line of unsung heroes - the event organisers and the charity trustees. It is hard to refuse a request to become a charity trustee. You might be asked because you have a professional qualification that the charity can draw on. But make sure you know what you are letting yourself in for.

Trustees are fully responsible for the charities they represent. The sector is regulated by the Charity Commissioners, a government body. The commissioners' office provides a number of useful free leaflets on all aspects of charitable work, from trusteeship to handling investments and raising funds.

Just how hard the role of trustee or treasurer can be was highlighted by the collapse of Barings. Thankfully, those who had deposited money with the bank, and they included a host of charities, got their money back when International Nederlanden Groep (ING), the Dutch bank and financial services group, stepped in.

But there are still losers, including charities, whose trustees believed that their

money was safe in a Barings' account or invested in loan notes and preference shares issued by Britain's oldest merchant bank, which could number the Queen among its clients.

Before it collapsed with debts of £860 million, Barings had in the past issued loan notes through an offshore arm worth about \$300 million. In the UK, it issued bonds worth £100 million as well as preference shares valued at about £57 million.

For these investors, which include pension funds, investment trusts, individuals and charities, the terms of the Barings rescue are not as favourable as those for depositors. The UK holders of loan notes have been offered £7.5 million, but may not see this. Preference shareholders

get nothing. Michael Shafran is an unpaid trustee and treasurer for the Children's Hospital Trust Fund, which provides medical equipment, nursing amenities and toys and books for patients at the Chelsea and Westminster Hospital in London. Late last year, the fund launched a £300,000 Polyanna appeal to buy four beds for the hospital's high-dependency unit.

Mr Shafran, who works in financial services and is an accountant, looks after the charity's investments, which are worth about £180,000. He aims to generate enough annual income to cover the fund's expenses. The high-yielding Barings' preference shares seemed ideal, so he invested £20,000.

Mr Shafran says: "I feel dreadful, but my fellow trustees have been very under-

standing. Becoming a trustee is very worthwhile, but the responsibilities are very great."

Downside Abbey has also lost out. Father Charles, Abbot of Britain's oldest Catholic public school, says that the charitable trust may cut back on bursaries and support for local churches after losing £50,000 in Barings preference shares.

Father Charles and Mr Shafran say they will contact the action groups now being set up to secure a better deal. This could be through legal channels or an ex-gratia payment from ING.

Charity Commissioners: 0171-210 4556/4477, or 0151 7031500, or 01823 245000. Barings Perpetual Noteholders Action group: c/o SJ Berwin & Co, 222, Grays Inn Road, London WC1X 8HB.

Common investment funds in focus

Managing a charity's money is one of the most onerous tasks facing a trustee. For immediate cash needs, the main high street banks and a number of building societies offer registered charities special accounts that pay interest without deducting basic rate tax. Last month, Abbey National went a step further and launched a limited-issue charity bond with a choice of one or two-year terms and a minimum investment of £25,000.

Prudent though it is to keep ready cash in a bank or building society account, charities, in general, leave far too much money on deposit says Daniel Phelan, editor of *NGO Finance*, a specialist bi-charity magazine. He adds: "Charities looking for long-term capital growth to



fund future projects should look at some form of stock market investment. For sums under £250,000, a charitable common investment fund is probably the ideal vehicle."

These funds are like unit trusts and invest in a range of companies. They come in pairs, with one fund for income and another for capital growth. The initial

charges, Mr Phelan says, usually average about 1 per cent, with an annual fee of about 0.5 per cent. The manager also claims the tax back on dividends, saving the trustee an administrative burden.

Those that manage common investment funds include Mercury, Flemings, Cazenove, Schroders, Foreign & Colonial, and Kleinwort Benson, which offers the only index-tracking fund. The Church, Charity and Local Authority (CCLA) Investment Management Group and the Charities Aid Foundation (CAF) also offer their expertise to charities.

NGO Finance: 0171-793 0001. CCLA: 0171-588 1815. CAF: 0732 771333.

ROBERT MILLER

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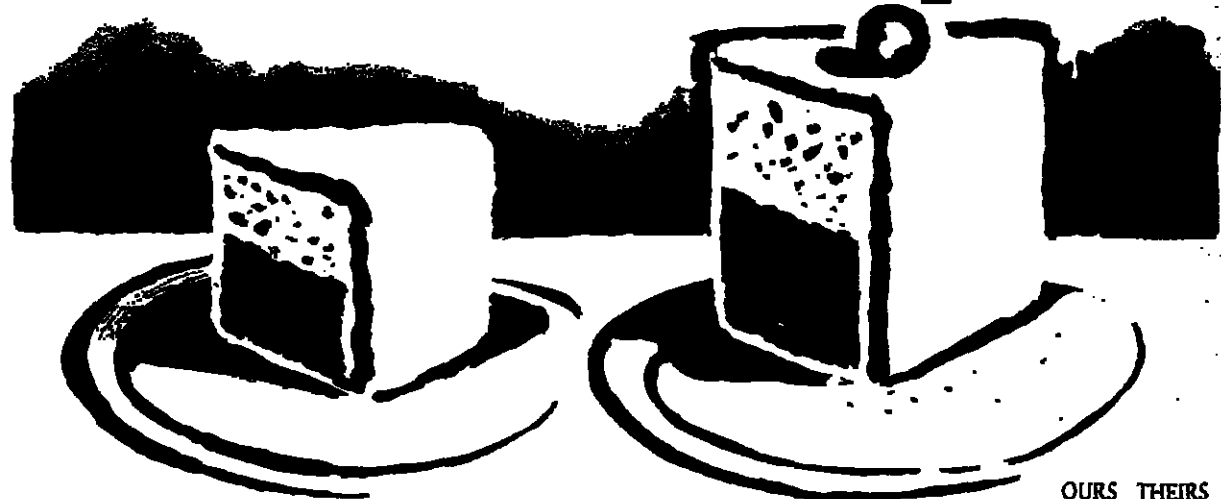


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Money Observer, January 1995

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THE TIMES WEEKEND MONEY LETTERS

Alienated by the Cheltenham & Gloucester's attitude

From R. P. Harding
Sir, Anita McGurk's letter (Weekend Money, March 11) branding the special meeting called by Cheltenham & Gloucester Building Society as absurd and futile has driven me to write in reply.

Can we assume that Ms McGurk is one of the select band of C&G members who is about to reap a large profit from the Lloyds takeover of C&G?

If so, I cannot be surprised at her enthusiasm for the takeover to succeed. However, as a mutual member of the

society, she might spare a thought for those of her fellow members who are in a less fortunate position.

Although I have been a C&G saver in the past, I was only a C&G borrower when the takeover was announced — I have an interest-only mortgage with the C&G on which I calculate that I have now paid about £60,000 in interest payments over the past six years.

I have a fixed-rate mortgage and stand to gain nothing from the Lloyds takeover. My 15-year-old daughter has £100 in a C&G saving account, and

she will receive a windfall of £500.

Is Ms McGurk aware that the takeover will proceed only if a majority of borrower members vote in favour of it? Is she also aware that, in a cynical exercise hardly worthy of the "trustees" of a mutual society, C&G executives have carefully worked out that there are sufficient borrower members who are also savers to ensure that this vote is likely to be in favour of the takeover?

I have to say that I am appalled at the shabby way in which C&G borrowers have been treated by the C&G, even down to fixing the special meeting on March 25.

As Ms McGurk will be aware, the Lloyds takeover of C&G is being viewed very much as a test case, and I hope very much that a political storm will be created by the society's members that will ensure that no members of a mutual society will be treated in this way in the future. Certainly, Lloyds and the C&G could hardly have chosen a better way of alienating a large proportion of their borrowers.

Yours faithfully,
R. P. HARDING,
Wendelschiff,
Cleeve Hill,
Cheltenham,
Gloucestershire.

Fly the world's favourite Pep

Looking for a personal equity plan with something different can be difficult. Choice abounds for those who want a plan based on a unit trust or investment trust. But those who already hold several such plans and want to be more adventurous have fewer options.

One little-publicised opportunity is the company-sponsored Pep, launched by a quoted company to encourage investors to become long-term holders of its shares. Most of these plans, which have an investment limit of £3,000, are set up under the single-company Pep rules that restrict you to the shares of the sponsoring company only.

But, some companies, such as British Airways, have set up sponsored Peps under the general Pep rules, with their £6,000 investment limit. These allow investors to hold shares in other companies within their sponsored Pep. The Pep regulations allow you to have one general Pep and one single-company Pep each year.

Investors in the BA Pep must buy a minimum of 200 BA shares, costing £768 at the current price, leaving plenty of scope for diversification.

The Pep, which is managed

by Barclays Stockbrokers, was originally designed to encourage investors to build up a portfolio of privatisation stocks. For this reason, there are still preferential dealing rates for all privatisation shares: 0.25 per cent with a minimum charge of £5. Dealing in other shares, including investment trusts, costs 1 per cent, minimum £10, still moderately priced.

The 240,000 individual British Airways shareholders can also take full advantage of BA shareholder perks, regardless of whether they invest direct, through a Pep, or hold their shares in a broker's nominee account. The annual perks are 10 per cent off one flight for the investor plus three family members, and a discount voucher on a British Airways holiday.

"Many companies don't want large shareholder registers, but we really do want to retain the loyalty of our shareholders over the long term," said Colin Smith, the company's shareholder-relations manager.

For details of company sponsored Peps, see the Chase de Vere Pep guide 0800 526992 (price £12.95).

ANTHONY BAILEY

According to my new premium... you have a 2½ times better chance of longevity



They've obviously assessed our driving skills



A life assured with blatant discrimination

From Mr M. J. Lawrence

Sir, My wife and I recently had to renew identical life assurance policies that had run their ten-year lives. The previous premiums had been identical for each of us. Now, ten years on, with each of us aged six months either side of 38 and in excellent health, I have been quoted a premium 250 per cent higher than my wife. The company concerned has double-checked and confirmed the figures to be correct. Is this equitable? If I buy

an annuity I doubt whether I would be offered a 250 per cent higher income.

In the light of the European pensions' provisions, equalising retirement at 65, is it likely that future legislation might come to the aid of all men faced with such blatant discrimination?

Yours faithfully,
M. J. LAWRENCE,
Church House,
Tregynon,
Montgomeryshire.

Absurd £100 minimum on premium bonds

From Mrs M. J. Owen

Sir, Mr Graham Walker (Weekend Money Letters, February 18) has my entire support on the absurdity of having to buy a minimum of £100 worth of premium bonds. I have corresponded with the Controller of National Savings, my MP and Mr Major.

all to no avail. As a grandmother (with seven grandchildren) who is not allowed to pay in less than £20 at a time to an ordinary savings account, and therefore cannot afford to do so, the purchase of a few premium bonds would be an attractive alternative. The harmless no-risk gamble is fun too.

It really is a short-sighted policy and one which actively discourages the small saver. The Government rightly encourages us all to save, but makes it impossible for the person of average means to do so.

Yours faithfully
M. J. OWEN,
Phoenix House,
25 High Street,
Barrington, Cambridgeshire.

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*October 1994 issue, Personal Pension Plans Survey: lowest charges over 5, 10, 15, 20 and 25 years. Foreign & Colonial Management Ltd (regulated by IMRO and the Personal Investment Authority) or its subsidiaries are the Managers of the investment. The value of shares and the income from them can fall as well as rise and you may not get back the full amount invested. Past performance is no guide to the future. Tax benefits may vary and their value depends on individual circumstances.

TEMPLETON GLOBAL GROWTH UNIT TRUST

In an uncertain world, you can be certain of Templeton.

Uncertainty is part of life. And for investors, that point has been proven right across the world in the last few months. Who could be confident keeping their eggs in one basket in the light of these recent events?

Who can predict the course of history?

In South America, the devaluation of the Mexican Peso triggered a "house of cards" effect right across many of the region's developing economies.

Both Brazil and Argentina, once seen as the great hopes of Latin American investment, have suffered setbacks as economic confidence has been shaken. But, looking further ahead, the solid groundwork in conquering inflation is unlikely to be wasted, with the longer term outlook still strong.

In uncertainty...

China sits waiting for a new leader to emerge. And nowhere can be sure to avoid the impact of the new regime. In Europe, political confusion is the order of the day. Both Great Britain and Italy see their current political order either threatened or in tatters as a result of crises of confidence or scandals. But Europe has its share of world class companies, and the prospect of vigorous competition as Eastern Europe re-builds.

North America, too, has had its own share of investment inertia as the Clinton administration founders on a reef of unpopularity and allegations, but US companies are renowned for their ability to react positively to competition and opportunity.

There is opportunity.

And in the Far East, political uncertainty in North Korea continues to cast a shadow over parts of the region. Nonetheless, the emerging economies on the Pacific Rim still contain some of the most exciting and ambitious companies to be found anywhere in the world - not least in the extremely attractive high-tech sector.

But wasn't it always like this? We've seen wars, inflations, recessions, trade barriers, corrupt governments, devaluations. Yet in the long-term, through all the ups and downs, equity investment offers by far the best way of making the most of your money.

Spreading your risk worldwide.

And never before have the benefits of spreading investment risk been more starkly apparent. In a world where no single market can ever be regarded as a "safe" bet, a broad portfolio is one of the best ways to guard against damaging downsides in single markets.

How can you find the best investment opportunities worldwide? Try looking to Templeton. That's what our worldwide organisation is dedicated to do. What's more, we've learned to focus on individual companies and their long-term prospects when investing. Giving us the confidence to buy when others despondently sell. This, we believe, is the way outstanding long-term returns may be made.

World class performance.

It is a investment philosophy that has served Templeton and its investors well. The Global Growth Trust has grown by 114.3% since launch in 1988, out-performing the MSCI World Index which has risen by 66.2%*.

Broadly speaking, the Trust has capitalised on the short-term emotions of other investors and allowed for real value to show through over time.

There can be few better investment groups than Franklin/Templeton, with an established reputation for strong, long term performance and over \$114 billion already under management, to help you take full advantage of stockmarket opportunities.

At Templeton we like unpredictable markets. They spell opportunity for the serious investor. Why not join us?

For more details, talk to your financial adviser. Alternatively, call free on 0800 272728 between 9am and 5pm Monday to Friday or complete the coupon.

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Templeton

Investment trusts put into focus

SG Warburg Securities has published 1995 *Investment Trust Private Investor Guide*, its annual survey of the sector. The guide contains a list of named individuals, within a selection of stockbroking and independent financial advisory organisations, who have a particular knowledge of the private sector and are prepared to take on new clients. Why Buy an Investment Trust? and How to Buy an Investment Trust preface the statistical information. Send a cheque for £15 to SG Warburg Securities to 1 Finsbury Avenue, London EC2M 2PA.

Traded Options — A *Private Investor's Guide* is sponsored by the London International Financial Futures and Options Exchange and ProShare. An odd time to publish a derivatives guide perhaps, but for the fussy financier who will not be deterred, it would be a welcome aid. The illustrated guide gives step-by-step guidance on the prudent use of equity and index options to maximise stock market profitability. There is also a chapter on using a personal computer for evaluating options. Normally £16.95, the guide is on special offer at £14. Call 0171-379 2407.

First Direct, the telephone bank, has moved into the car insurance market, after one-in-four customers said they would like the service. Customers will only be charged local call rates, and the service offers more than 200 separate policies. First Direct can be contacted on 0345 100 101.

Prudential has cut 32 per cent off its building insurance premiums for its Plain Speaking Home Insurance product, after a review of postcode rating areas. By increasing the number of areas from eight to 20, and moving postcodes between rating areas, the Pru is able to price customers' premiums more accurately according to risk. The price cut has been encouraged by a review of trends in building costs and a reduction in the number of claims. In addition, the Pru offers a 15 per cent contents discount by insuring both contents and building, and introductory discounts of £25 off the first year's premium if customers switch from a mortgage lender, as well as £15 off first-year premiums for other new Pru customers. There is a contents discount of 5 per cent for those between 45 and 49, and 20 per cent for those over 50.



SAVERS' BEST BUYS

Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interest paid
INSTANT ACCESS ACCOUNTS				
Yorkshire BS 0800 378836	1st Class Acc	Postal	£1,000	6.20 Y/y
Skipton BS 01766 700511	3 High Street	Instant	£2,000	6.25 Y/y
Britannia BS 01536 392806	Capital Trust	Postal	£10,000	6.50 Y/y

Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interest paid
FIXED RATES				
Woolwich BS 0800 400900	Fixed Rate Bond	2yr bond	£500	8.25 F/y
Woolwich BS 0800 400900	Fixed Rate Bond	3yr bond	£500	8.50 F/y
Co-operative Bank 0800 125100	Fixed Rate Bond	3yr bond	£2,000	8.25 OM
Brifco & West BS 0117 9294271	Fixed Rate Bond	5yr bond	£25,000	9.70 F/y

Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interest paid
TESSAS (TAX FREE)				
Sun Banking Corp 01436 744500	5 year	£8,900	9.00 F/y	
Hinckley & Rugby BS 0800 774499	5 year	£3,000 A	7.65 Y/y	
Market Harborough BS 01858 483244	5 year	£9,000	7.75 Y/y	
Holmesdale BS 01737 245716	5 year	£500	7.50 Y/y	

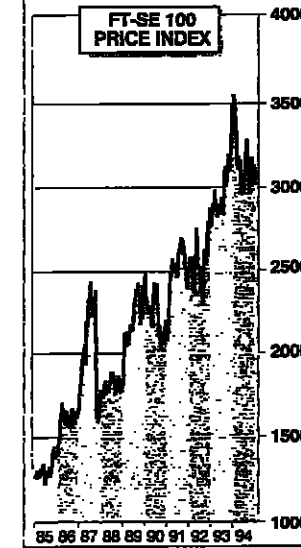
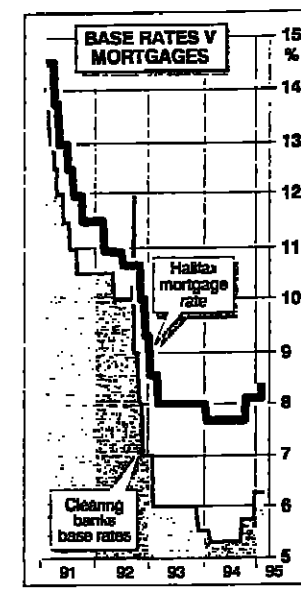
CREDIT CARDS BEST BUYS					
Card type	Interest per month	APR	Fee per annum		
Robert Fleming S&P 0800 282101	MasterCard/Visa	1.00%	14.60%	£12	
Royal Bank of Scotland 0800 161816	MasterCard	1.14%	14.50%	Nil C	
Alliance & Leicester 0500 800250	Visa	1.375%	18.90%	£10 E	

Card type	Interest per month	APR	Fee per annum
PERSONAL LOANS BEST BUYS			
Clydesdale Bank 0141 223 2216	11.75%	£113.94	£103.33
Midland Bank 0345 180183	13.00%	£116.54	£103.14
N&P BS 0800 808080	15.50%	£118.22	£103.29
Abbey National 01908 680140	16.90%	£117.41	£105.05

Nb. A - Feeder account required. In the interest paid column, C = no interest free period D = annual fee rebated £1.5K+ charged per annum E = Annual fee waived for first year new accounts F = fixed rate (all other rates are variable); OM denotes interest paid on maturity.

* RATES SHOWN ARE GROSS AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE. PLEASE CHECK RATES BEFORE INVESTING.

Source: Moneyfacts, the Monthly Guide to Investment & Mortgage Rates (01892 500 665)



GUARANTEED INCOME BONDS

Investment (£)	Company	Standard Rate (%)
ANNUAL INCOME Rates as at March 15, 1995		
1 Year		
1,000	Premium Life	5.50
5,000	AIG Life	5.80
10,000	AIG Life	6.10
20,000	AIG Life	6.15
50,000	AIG Life	6.20
100,000	AIG Life	6.25
250,000	AIG Life	6.25
2 Years		
1,000	Premium Life	6.30
5,000	AIG Life	6.50
10,000	AIG Life	6.70
20,000	AIG Life	6.80
50,000	AIG Life	6.85
100,000	AIG Life	6.90
250,000	AIG Life	6.95
3 Years		
1,000	Premium Life	6.40
5,000	EuroLife	7.00
4 Years		
1,000	Premium Life	6.50
5,000	Gan Life	6.60
5 Years		
1,000	Premium Life	6.60
5,000	Scottish Widows	7.40
10,000	EuroLife	7.50
20,000	EuroLife	7.60
50,000	EuroLife	7.70

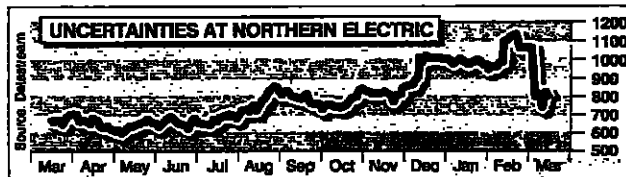
Source: Chamberlain de Broé 01226 486363. Net rates. Income and capital guaranteed. Early surrender. Vary terms. Monthly income may be available.

PBS

Fixed Rate	Gross coupon	Buying price	Gross yield	Issue price	Minimum purchase
Birmingham Midshires	9.375%	90.00	10.40%	100.17	1,000
Bradford & Bingley	11.125%	112.75	10.22%	103.13	10,000
Bradford & Bingley	13.000%	126.00	10.31%	100.20	10,000
Bristol & West	13.375%	128.00	10.45%	100.34	1,000
Britannia	13.000%	123.50	10.52%	100.42	1,000
Cheltenham & Glos	11.750%	117.50	9.99%	100.96	50,000
Coventry	12.125%	115.75	10.45%	100.75	1,000
First National	11.750%	115.75	10.45%	100.75	1,000
Halifax	8.750%	88.50	9.88%	100.22	50,000
Halifax	12.000%	119.00	10.07%	100.28	50,000
Leeds Permanent	13.625%	136.50	9.89%	100.10	50,000
Leeds & Holbeck	13.375%	127.25	10.51%	100.23	1,000
Newcastle	10.750%	103.25	10.42%	100.23	1,000
Newcastle	12.625%	122.00	10.34%	100.45	1,000
Northern Rock	12.625%	121.75	10.37%	100.14	1,000
Skipton	12.875%	122.00	10.55%	100.48	1,000

Floating Rate	Gross coupon	Buying price	Issue price	Minimum purchase
First National	8.9875%	100.50	100.00	1,000
Cheshire	8.8864%	100.00	100.00	1,000

PBS = Permanent Interest-bearing shares. Source: ABN AMRO Home Govest - 0171 601 0101



LARGER LENDERS

Lender	Interest rate %	Loan size	Max %	Notes
Building Societies				
Bradford & Bingley	3.15	£15k+	75	5.3% discount for 12 months
0800 252 993	2.95	neg	80	5.49% discount for 12 months
0800 526350	2.49	to £150k	90	6.05% discount to 1.59%
Northern Rock	3.49	neg	75	4.85% discount to 31.59%
0800 591 500	3.60	£50k+	60	4.75% discount for 1 year
Local branch				

LARGER LOANS

Lender	Interest rate %	Loan size	Max %	Notes
Building Societies				
Scarborough	1.25	£25-100k	95	7.2% disc-6 mns
0800 580000	1.50	to £150k	70	5.50% disc-1 yr
Hinckley & Rugby	1.44	£25-£150k	95	7% disc-6 mths
0455 21234				3% disc-6 mths
Yorkshire	3.40	£20-210k	90	5.10% discount to 1.49%
0274 740740	3.39	£15-£150k	95	5.10% discount to 1.59%
Local branch				

NATIONAL SAVINGS

Gross rate	At test rates 25%	At test rates 40%	Min/maximum investment £	Notice	Contact
Ordinary A/c	2.00	1.50	10-10,000	10th	01416494555
Investment A/c	5.25	3.94	3.15	20-500	01416494555
Income Bond	6.50	4.88	3.90	2,000-24,999	01416494555
First Opt Bond	6.40	4.80	3.84	1,000-25,000	01416494555
42nd Issue Cert	5.85			100-10,000	01913864900
Yearly Plan	5.85			25-1,000	01913864900
Children's Bond	7.85			10th	01416494555
Gen Ext Rate	3.51			8day	01416494555
Capital Bonds	7.75	5.81	4.65	100-250,000	01416494555
8th Issue Linked	3.00			100-10,000	01913864900
Pennine Bond	7.50	5.83	4.50	500-20,000	01253766151

* First £100 (£140) of net test rates, first access for up to £100 * Additional income up to £20,000 for repatriated proceeds (from free "Pensions" gross and net) guaranteed when held for 5 years. 10% net bonus for £20,000 + £40,000 in addition to £1 holdings * Available but not in full.

PENSION ANNUITIES

All figures are the gross annual annuity (£100,000 purchase), guaranteed 5 years, paid monthly in advance

SINGLE LIFE (level ann)	Male: Age 60	Age 65	Age 70
Equi Life	£10,970	£12,004	£13,330
Equi Life	£10,970	£12,004	£13,330
Can Life	£10,628	£11,723	£13,080
Sun Life	£10,628	£11,723	£13,080
MGM Annuity	£10,659	£11,715	£13,161
General	£10,682	£11,706	£13,202
SINGLE LIFE	Female: Age 60	Age 65	Age 70
Nor Union	£9,922	£10,641	£11,714
Equitable	£9,933	£10,743	£11,862
Prudential	£9,927	£10,848	£11,712
General	£9,905	£10,856	£11,712
MGM Annuity	£9,927	£10,670	£11,779
JOINT LIFE, 2/3 WIDOWS (level annuity)	Male: Age 60	Age 65	Age 70
Nwch Uni	£9,606	£10,143	£10,924
Equitable	£9,549	£10,163	£11,008
Prudential	£9,645	£10,101	£10,887
MGM Annuity	£9,621	£10,226	£11,086
General	£9,463	£10,067	£10,906

Source: Annuity Desk (071 375 1175)

Compiled by: Morag Preston

FIRST-TIME BUYERS

Lender	Interest rate %	Loan size	Max %	Notes
Building Societies				
Britannia	3.55	neg	95	Fixed to 2.19%
0800 526350	3.15	£30k+	75	5.30% discount for 1 year
0274 555555	2.24	to £150k	95	6% disc 5 mths
0800 580455				1.75% disc 1 year
Banks				
B of Scotland	3.94	£15k-150k	95	4.50% discount to 31.19%
0132 556 8555	3.60	£30k+	95	4.75% for 1 year
Lloyds				
Local branch				

Larger lenders, larger loans and first-time buyers tables supplied by Bay's Guides Ltd. Further information: Bay's Guides, 01783 983422.

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INVESTMENT TRUSTS

Trust Name	Investment (£)	Company	Standard Rate (%)
ADGON LIFE ASSURANCE	1,000	Premium Life	5.50
ADGON LIFE ASSURANCE	5,000	AIG Life	5.80
ADGON LIFE ASSURANCE	10,000	AIG Life	6.10
ADGON LIFE ASSURANCE	20,000	AIG Life	6.15
ADGON LIFE ASSURANCE	50,000	AIG Life	6.20
ADGON LIFE ASSURANCE	100,000	AIG Life	6.25
ADGON LIFE ASSURANCE	250,000	AIG Life	6.25
ADGON LIFE ASSURANCE	1,000	Premium Life	6.30
ADGON LIFE ASSURANCE	5,000	AIG Life	6.50
ADGON LIFE ASSURANCE	10,000	AIG Life	6.70
ADGON LIFE ASSURANCE	20,000	AIG Life	6.80
ADGON LIFE ASSURANCE	50,000	AIG Life	6.85
ADGON LIFE ASSURANCE	100,000	AIG Life	6.90
ADGON LIFE ASSURANCE	250,000	AIG Life	6.95
ADGON LIFE ASSURANCE	1,000	Premium Life	6.40
ADGON LIFE ASSURANCE	5,000	EuroLife	7.00
ADGON LIFE ASSURANCE	1,000	Premium Life	6.50
ADGON LIFE ASSURANCE	5,000	Gan Life	6.60
ADGON LIFE ASSURANCE	1,000	Premium Life	6.60
ADGON LIFE ASSURANCE	5,000	Scottish Widows	7.40
ADGON LIFE ASSURANCE	10,000	EuroLife	7.50
ADGON LIFE ASSURANCE	20,000	EuroLife	7.60
ADGON LIFE ASSURANCE	50,000	EuroLife	7.70

Subdued end to week

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place ten business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

1994/95 High Low Company Price Div. Yld % P/E

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1994/95 High Low Company Price Div. Yld % P/E

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1994/95 High Low Company Price Div. Yld % P/E

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THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

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Frenchman weathers the storm as race begins for British rallying title

Delecour steers clear of Welsh pitfalls

By OLIVER HOLT

THE track to the start of the fourth stage rose away to the left, but the little knots of spectators trudging up the hill ignored it and went to the right. They followed a grass ledge that clung to the edge of the forest and slithered through the mud, over gates and stiles until they could see the valley stretching out below them.

They headed on, with the rain beating against their anoraks, until they came to a place where reeds marked a marsh. A crowd had gathered there by a barbed-wire fence, and beyond it the track that the rally drivers were to follow plunged out of the forest and passed in front of them before it reached the sharpest of hairpin bends.

On the right of the track lay a shallow ditch, on the left, on the inside of the bend, there was a deep gully capable of breaking the suspension if a car strayed into it by trying to cut the corner. The Vauxhall Rally of Wales, the first leg of the Mobil 1/Top Gear British Rally Championship, is no place for the faint-hearted among either drivers or spectators.

As they waited for the first car, the rain began to turn to hailstones which stung the face. Then the roar of Francois Delecour's Ford Escort Cosworth broke the silence. It came hurtling out of the trees, down the hill slewing first right and then left and then skidding round the hairpin as the Frenchman, the overwhelming favourite to win this event in his Group A car, yanked on his handbrake and then sped away. The times were to show that he completed the stage, Penmachno South, 22 seconds quicker than his nearest challenger.

As the light began to fade, Delecour was 36 seconds ahead of his nearest challenger after four stages with four more left to complete. The spectators disregarded the



Alister McRae sends his Nissan Sunny careering through the mud on the first stage of the Rally of Wales yesterday. Photograph: Hugh Routledge

hailstones and the lightning that streaked across the head of the valley and stayed to watch competitor after competitor negotiate the hairpin. After Delecour came De Mevius, then Evans, then Alister McRae. All of them were inch-perfect, comfortably avoiding the telegraph pole that faced them square on as they entered the bend, speeding away down the hill, changing up rapidly through their gears.

But the fifth driver, Chris Mellors, also driving an Escort Cosworth, got it all wrong. He, too, slowed to the right but could not correct the slide, finishing in the shallow ditch at the entry to the hairpin.

Dozens of spectators clambered over the fences to try and push him out, but in his haste to escape Mellors reversed his car into the gully on the inside of the bend to compound his misery. He had to be pushed out of there, too, and lost about a minute in time.

The Welsh rally marks the start of an exciting new phase for the British championship. The authorities have banned Group A cars like Delecour's from competing for the overall title, although they can win individual events. The championship can only be claimed by Formula Two cars, which are less expensive to run even though they do not make the

Sampras and Agassi ready to renew battle

FROM STUART JONES, TENNIS CORRESPONDENT
IN KEY BISCAYNE, FLORIDA

THE thunder clouds that spread over the opening of the Lipton championships here yesterday formed no threat to Pete Sampras and Andre Agassi. Seeded to meet in the final for the second successive year, and so to continue their developing rivalry, they are scheduled to start tomorrow.

The central figures in the tournament, they are wrestling with emotional handicaps as well as with each other. Sampras is still concerned about the ill-health of Tim Lullikson, his coach, who is receiving chemotherapy for a brain tumour.

In his absence, though, Sampras has extended the margin at the head of the rankings, but his lead is not unassailable. Only if he reaches the semi-final is he certain to retain his status as the No. 1. Ironically, Agassi would have been closer had he not shown compassion to an ailing Sampras and agreed to delay, by some 90 minutes, the start of the final last year, which he subsequently lost.

His thoughts now lie with Mike, his father, who underwent heart bypass surgery on Wednesday and is reported to be in "good condition". Agassi has promised him that he will take revenge for his defeat by Sampras in the venue where his own resurgence began 12 months ago.

It was here that he invited Brad Gilbert, a player who had contrastingly made the most of limited talent, to become his tactical adviser. Agassi, completing his recuperation from an operation to cure tendinitis in the right wrist, was not in the top 30 at the time.

The holder of the United States and Australian Open titles, he is "playing a bit smarter and moving better", according to Sampras, who beat him in the final at Indian Wells on Monday. Agassi, himself, uses a golfing analogy to describe his form, laced with renewed conviction. "I've got a hot putter," he said. "I feel like I'm rolling them in from all sides of the green. I feel good. I feel focused. I feel prepared."

Sampras could start against Mark Peckey, the Great Britain No. 2. Peckey, who has beaten three top-ten players in the last year, will earn the honour if he removes Derrick Rostagno, an American who is playing his first tournament since the United States Open in 1993.


Clare Wood, Britain's only representative in the women's field, is fortunate to be in it. Knocked out in the second round of the qualifying competition, she entered as "a lucky loser", courtesy of the withdrawal of Helena Sukova, but her match against Nicole Pietrangeli was postponed by rain.

Conchita Martinez, the Wimbledon champion, has hired Carlos Kirmayr, who used to work with Gabriela Sabatini, as her coach. He takes over from Eric van Harpen, who has family



Sampras: torn emotions

COMPREHENSIVE GUIDE TO TODAY'S FIXTURES									
Football									
FA Cup									
First Division									
Second Division									
Third Division									
Fourth Division									
Other Football									
Rugby Union									
Rugby League									
Other Sports									



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Allegation and Dunwoody clear the last on the way to victory in the Guinness Saint Patrick's Day Hurdle at Cheltenham yesterday

Cheltenham plays fourth ace

By ALAN LEE

CHELTENHAM'S ground-breaking fourth day did not proceed serenely — that "morning after" feeling was compounded by a gusting gale which put the day's racing at risk — but the chances of a repeat are growing. This time next year there may be no happy coincidence with St Patrick's Day or Comic Relief Day, but an extended Festival is still highly possible.

The course has a board-meeting next Friday and Edward Gillespie, the managing director, says the extra day is on the agenda. "We want to be persuaded that people think it is a good idea," he explained. "There is a nice crowd here today and a good

atmosphere. If the industry reacts favourably, I imagine it will be done again."

Whether Kim Bailey would have lent his support, if given a vote yesterday morning, must be in doubt. Understandably, for one who had trained the Champion Hurdle and Gold Cup winners, and won a small fortune from the bookmakers, Bailey had celebrated with impressive stamina on Thursday evening.

Two hours after he fell into bed, he had to welcome the first of a battalion of camera crews to his Lambourn base. Abandoning plans to travel to Norfolk to saddle his Fakenham runner, Mr Jamboore, he instead returned to Cheltenham, feeling fragile and gently deflecting ques-

tions about Aintree commitments for his Gold Cup winner.

Bailey insists that he will make no decision about Master Oats's participation in the Grand National until next weekend at the earliest. But he is not unaware of the clamouring interest. How could he be when Ladbrokes now offer his horse at only 4-1 for the steeplechasing double? "Even supposed certainties like Red Rum used to go off at bigger odds than that," said his representative, Mike Dillon, said.

While Bailey nursed his thoughts along with his hangover, the suddenly familiar grin of his jockey, Norman Williamson, was as broad as ever. Admired within the sport, Williamson has gained

wider acclaim only this week and his spectacular leap from Master Oats in the winner's enclosure will become one of the sporting pictures of the year.

Pressed about the National yesterday, the personable Irishman said: "It's entirely up to Mr Bailey and I know he won't tell me. I have to sit back and wait, too. But the horse seems well today and if he's still well when Aintree comes round I think he will probably go there as long as the ground isn't too fast."

Williamson's feats this week dwarfed the efforts of every other jockey, especially as Adrian Maguire was tragically absent and Richard Dunwoody had 16 rides without a winner. Dunwoody,

leading the title race, must have groaned inwardly as Williamson, on 50-1 shot Lucky Blue, loomed alongside him at the second-last hurdle in yesterday's opener.

But the champion had plenty in hand on Martin Pipe's Allegation, who stayed on to beat the odds-on Cab On Target. Pipe, in avuncular mood, said Miernnehad come out of the Gold Cup well and is on course for Aintree.

Dunwoody reckoned he had seldom ridden in such a high wind and, along with other senior jockeys, informed the stewards that conditions were dangerous. Fortunately, the gale eased enough for racing to continue, along with the sidestories of Irish bands and frenzied fund-raising.

NEWCASTLE

THUNDERER
2.15 Zafra, 2.45 Twin States, 3.15 Fearless Wonder, 3.45 Strath Royal, 4.15 Thornton Gate, 4.45 Wait You There, 5.15 Go-Informal.

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating:
4.15 COOL LUKE.

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM SIS

2.15 BELFORD NOVICES CLAIMING HURDLE

(22,245; 2m 110yds) (21 runners)
1 PRINCE BALTASAR 20 M Bredon 6-11-10 D Towler (7) 81
2 SPRING 14 D Bredon 6-11-10 R Barry (7) 81
3 2004 ZAFRA 17 (6) M Bredon 6-11-10 M Bredon (7) 81
4 2004 BARNET 17 (6) M Bredon 6-11-10 M Bredon (7) 81
5 2004 BELIEF 17 (6) M Bredon 6-11-10 M Bredon (7) 81
6 2004 BARNET 17 (6) M Bredon 6-11-10 M Bredon (7) 81
7 2004 BARNET 17 (6) M Bredon 6-11-10 M Bredon (7) 81
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18 2004 BARNET 17 (6) M Bredon 6-11-10 M Bredon (7) 81
19 2004 BARNET 17 (6) M Bredon 6-11-10 M Bredon (7) 81
20 2004 BARNET 17 (6) M Bredon 6-11-10 M Bredon (7) 81
21 2004 BARNET 17 (6) M Bredon 6-11-10 M Bredon (7) 81

2.45 MATTS BANK NOVICES CHASE

(22,245; 3m) (13)
1 2004 BARNET 17 (6) M Bredon 6-11-10 M Bredon (7) 81
2 2004 BARNET 17 (6) M Bredon 6-11-10 M Bredon (7) 81
3 2004 BARNET 17 (6) M Bredon 6-11-10 M Bredon (7) 81
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13 2004 BARNET 17 (6) M Bredon 6-11-10 M Bredon (7) 81

3.15 NORTHERN CHAMPION JUVENILE HANDICAP

(24,875; 2m 110yds) (8)
1 1231 GOLDEN HILL 8 (C,D,F,S) M Bredon 6-11-10 M Bredon (7) 81
2 1231 GOLDEN HILL 8 (C,D,F,S) M Bredon 6-11-10 M Bredon (7) 81
3 1231 GOLDEN HILL 8 (C,D,F,S) M Bredon 6-11-10 M Bredon (7) 81
4 1231 GOLDEN HILL 8 (C,D,F,S) M Bredon 6-11-10 M Bredon (7) 81
5 1231 GOLDEN HILL 8 (C,D,F,S) M Bredon 6-11-10 M Bredon (7) 81
6 1231 GOLDEN HILL 8 (C,D,F,S) M Bredon 6-11-10 M Bredon (7) 81
7 1231 GOLDEN HILL 8 (C,D,F,S) M Bredon 6-11-10 M Bredon (7) 81
8 1231 GOLDEN HILL 8 (C,D,F,S) M Bredon 6-11-10 M Bredon (7) 81

3.45 ARTHUR STEPHENSON MEMORIAL HANDICAP

(22,245; 3m) (5)
1 1231 GOLDEN HILL 8 (C,D,F,S) M Bredon 6-11-10 M Bredon (7) 81
2 1231 GOLDEN HILL 8 (C,D,F,S) M Bredon 6-11-10 M Bredon (7) 81
3 1231 GOLDEN HILL 8 (C,D,F,S) M Bredon 6-11-10 M Bredon (7) 81
4 1231 GOLDEN HILL 8 (C,D,F,S) M Bredon 6-11-10 M Bredon (7) 81
5 1231 GOLDEN HILL 8 (C,D,F,S) M Bredon 6-11-10 M Bredon (7) 81

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: M Bredon, 5 winners from 32 runners, 31.3%; M Bredon, 22 from 95, 23.4%; C Pether, 4 from 21, 19.0%; P Pether, 3 from 22, 13.6%; M Bredon, 13 from 62, 21.0%; J Pether, 8 from 46, 17.4%.
JOCKEYS: M Bredon, 8 from 34, 23.5%; T Reed, 19 from 106, 17.9%; L Wier, 18 from 86, 20.9%; M Bredon, 8 from 51, 15.7%; R Barry, 6 from 42, 14.3%; M Bredon, 8 from 25, 32.0%.

4.15 ULHAM HANDICAP HURDLE

(23,300; 2m 110yds) (12)
1 1231 GOLDEN HILL 8 (C,D,F,S) M Bredon 6-11-10 M Bredon (7) 81
2 1231 GOLDEN HILL 8 (C,D,F,S) M Bredon 6-11-10 M Bredon (7) 81
3 1231 GOLDEN HILL 8 (C,D,F,S) M Bredon 6-11-10 M Bredon (7) 81
4 1231 GOLDEN HILL 8 (C,D,F,S) M Bredon 6-11-10 M Bredon (7) 81
5 1231 GOLDEN HILL 8 (C,D,F,S) M Bredon 6-11-10 M Bredon (7) 81
6 1231 GOLDEN HILL 8 (C,D,F,S) M Bredon 6-11-10 M Bredon (7) 81
7 1231 GOLDEN HILL 8 (C,D,F,S) M Bredon 6-11-10 M Bredon (7) 81
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11 1231 GOLDEN HILL 8 (C,D,F,S) M Bredon 6-11-10 M Bredon (7) 81
12 1231 GOLDEN HILL 8 (C,D,F,S) M Bredon 6-11-10 M Bredon (7) 81

4.45 BELLINGHAM AMATEUR RIDERS HANDICAP

(22,273; 2m 110yds) (5)
1 3001 ONE FOR THE POT 7 (C,D,F,S) M Bredon 6-11-10 M Bredon (7) 81
2 3001 ONE FOR THE POT 7 (C,D,F,S) M Bredon 6-11-10 M Bredon (7) 81
3 3001 ONE FOR THE POT 7 (C,D,F,S) M Bredon 6-11-10 M Bredon (7) 81
4 3001 ONE FOR THE POT 7 (C,D,F,S) M Bredon 6-11-10 M Bredon (7) 81
5 3001 ONE FOR THE POT 7 (C,D,F,S) M Bredon 6-11-10 M Bredon (7) 81

5.15 ROTHSCHILD OPEN NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE

(21,200; 2m 110yds) (20)
1 3001 ONE FOR THE POT 7 (C,D,F,S) M Bredon 6-11-10 M Bredon (7) 81
2 3001 ONE FOR THE POT 7 (C,D,F,S) M Bredon 6-11-10 M Bredon (7) 81
3 3001 ONE FOR THE POT 7 (C,D,F,S) M Bredon 6-11-10 M Bredon (7) 81
4 3001 ONE FOR THE POT 7 (C,D,F,S) M Bredon 6-11-10 M Bredon (7) 81
5 3001 ONE FOR THE POT 7 (C,D,F,S) M Bredon 6-11-10 M Bredon (7) 81

Blinkered first time

HEREFORD: 2.20 Darnall Boy, The Power Of One, 3.20 Houghton, 4.50 Foughton, 5.15 LINGFIELD, 6.15 LINGFIELD, 6.45 LINGFIELD, 7.15 LINGFIELD, 7.45 LINGFIELD, 8.15 LINGFIELD, 8.45 LINGFIELD, 9.15 LINGFIELD, 9.45 LINGFIELD, 10.15 LINGFIELD, 10.45 LINGFIELD, 11.15 LINGFIELD, 11.45 LINGFIELD, 12.15 LINGFIELD, 12.45 LINGFIELD, 13.15 LINGFIELD, 13.45 LINGFIELD, 14.15 LINGFIELD, 14.45 LINGFIELD, 15.15 LINGFIELD, 15.45 LINGFIELD, 16.15 LINGFIELD, 16.45 LINGFIELD, 17.15 LINGFIELD, 17.45 LINGFIELD, 18.15 LINGFIELD, 18.45 LINGFIELD, 19.15 LINGFIELD, 19.45 LINGFIELD, 20.15 LINGFIELD, 20.45 LINGFIELD, 21.15 LINGFIELD, 21.45 LINGFIELD, 22.15 LINGFIELD, 22.45 LINGFIELD, 23.15 LINGFIELD, 23.45 LINGFIELD, 24.15 LINGFIELD, 24.45 LINGFIELD, 25.15 LINGFIELD, 25.45 LINGFIELD, 26.15 LINGFIELD, 26.45 LINGFIELD, 27.15 LINGFIELD, 27.45 LINGFIELD, 28.15 LINGFIELD, 28.45 LINGFIELD, 29.15 LINGFIELD, 29.45 LINGFIELD, 30.15 LINGFIELD, 30.45 LINGFIELD, 31.15 LINGFIELD, 31.45 LINGFIELD, 32.15 LINGFIELD, 32.45 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Saturday portrait: Mike Catt, by David Hands, rugby correspondent

Drifter journeys back to his roots to run with England's flow

MANY rugby players over the past decade have come to seek their sporting fortune via Bath's training ground at Lambridge. You pass the ground on the A4 heading out of the city towards Chippenham, and if it is dark, the floodlights are just strong enough to illuminate the shapes of players fitting to and fro.

England's premier club has become recognised as a hothouse of excellence, so much so that players are content to bide their time in the second XV, against the day when the opening will occur in the firsts — or even acknowledging that promotion may be round the corner from Bath United to England's A or Emerging Players XV, or to Scotland.

Success has bred a healthy scepticism among the longer-serving members of the playing and coaching staff. Whatever claims to fame newcomers bring, they must survive Bath's inquisition, which examines both skill and personality. So, when a slim South African wearing an Eastern Province jersey trotted out to train with the usual gang nearly three years ago, there was no reason to suppose that the same rituals would not be observed.

Mike Catt was different. Stuart Barnes, the former England stand-off, says so. So does Brian Ashton, then coach to Bath's backs and now chief coach. "He struck everyone that night as being quality material," Ashton said. "He was obviously highly skilful, but he was also very determined. He was happy to get stuck in and gets his hands dirty, and that always goes down well at Bath."

Catt has been good for Bath, but Bath has been outstanding for Catt, who today wins only his sixth cap in forming England's last line of defence in the winner-takes-all meeting with Scotland at Twickenham, the deciding day of rugby union's five nations' championship. Last line of defence? That is the traditional view of the full back. As much as anything, Catt will be one of the first lines of attack, the first genuinely explosive full back England have selected in modern times, which he emphasised with two tries against Canada in December when he

replaced the unfortunate Paul Hull.

That is not to be dismissive of a long line of distinguished occupants of the No 15 shirt: Jonathan Webb was a wonderfully fluid player coming forward. Huw Davies could be dazzling but was more often required for his defensive qualities. Dusty Hare scored tries of high quality as well as creating goalscoring records. Yet the nearest player that English rugby has offered to Catt was the young Marcus Rose — well before his limited international career.

Fresh from school in the mid-1970s, Rose was a wonderfully articulate full back in a stuffy era. He had pace and vision and adventure, and these are exactly the characteristics which mark Catt — except that, now, he is

'He was happy to get stuck in and get his hands dirty and that always goes down well at Bath'

fortunate enough to be playing in an England side which is good enough to take full advantage of his attacking ability. Watch a whole host of young England wannabes, particularly at stand-off half, where Catt now plays his club rugby, and you may observe the thought processes which precede any course of action.

With Catt, thought and action are almost simultaneous, and, since he is blessed with pace, his contribution can be decisive. This is not to say that he is the finished product. His defensive attributes have yet to receive a searching examination: his line-kicking lacks consistency; and he has suffered this season by shuttling between two positions, full back for country, stand-off for club.

Yet he has all the confidence of the born sportsman, and all the competitiveness which comes naturally to the third of four brothers. That he oozes determination, too, can be seen from the attraction

which the triathlon holds for him, that most demanding of sports requiring, above all, endurance and into which he once considered following Peter, his brother, who represented South Africa.

It was Peter whose telephone call, on his 21st birthday, summoned Catt to England. Jimmy, their father, is from the industrial town of Port Elizabeth, but business took him to England where he met Anne, Catt's mother. Douglas and Peter, the older boys, were born in England, while Michael and Richard were born after the family returned to the eastern Cape.

Catt cheerfully admits that school had little academic appeal, but the sporting facilities available, and the coaching — notably in athletics — were outstanding. Three hours every afternoon in South Africa's beautiful climate honed the young Catt into a rugby player talented enough to appear for the senior Eastern Province side at the age of 18. Like his school friends, Catt followed the exploits of Naas Botha, Danie Gerber, the du Plessis brothers and dreamt of being a Springbok while coming to understand that the political situation kept South Africa on the outside of international sport.

Indeed, Catt once had the dubious privilege of playing against Gerber, one of the world's outstanding centres during the 1980s, in a club match and ruefully remembers the tackle with which Gerber crushed him.

Catt has become diplomatically coy about his career ambitions. Over-frank revelations in a Sunday paper last autumn about the going rate of expenses in Eastern Province brought down on his head a storm which did not blow over until a Rugby Football Union inquiry exonerated him. Clearly, he had hoped to make progress, after leaving school, through his sporting ability while helping out at his father's security firm until, on his 21st birthday, his brother called from England to suggest a visit to the relations "back home".

With no clear plans in his mind, Catt arrived at his uncle's home near Stroud, and decided to alleviate a rather-too-quiet existence by taking his boots to the nearest



ILLUSTRATION BY STEVE MARTIN

rugby ground. Gloucester were not at home when he telephoned, but Bath, in the substantial shape of Gareth Chilcott, were. Hence the arrival at Lambridge one Wednesday evening of a young man who, in Jack Rowell's words, was "drifting in life".

Rowell, Bath and now England have combined to put a focus into Catt's life. At 23, he represents the new-age player. Rugby has found him an occupation, as marketing executive with the philanthropic

Johnson's News Group in Bath, which employs several club players, and rugby has fast-tracked him to the kind of exposure from which he can profit in tandem with his international career.

Rowell's influence has been paramount in projecting Catt towards under-21 caps, then into the senior squad, not only because of his position in the national team management structure but also because of his ability to wind up players to give of their best. In

Catt's case, that is considerable. He has played representative rugby in every position behind the scrum except scrum half, and his adaptability may yet pose problems for England, who initially saw him as successor to Rob Andrew at stand-off but who will be loath to move him from full back if he sustains this season's level of success.

Above all, Bath have encouraged him to retain the natural running style so common among

South Africa's big rugby-playing schools and to express himself, right or wrong. "At Eastern Province, there was a communication gap between the Afrikaners and the English-speakers [of which he is one]," Catt said. "At Bath, I got straight into the game, you can do things you never thought you could." Like play for England, like appear in a World Cup on your native South African soil, as Catt will surely do this summer. That is what dreams are made of.

Eubank finds renewed motivation

IF, INSTEAD of riling Chris Eubank when publicising their bout last month, Steve Collins had played a secondary role to the champion, he would have had an excellent chance of succeeding in his challenge for the World Boxing Organisation super-middleweight title in Millstreet, Co. Cork, tonight.

Eubank, who takes on only challengers that he thinks he can beat, might have been lulled into a false sense of security before the fifteenth defence of his title if the Irishman had been suitably deferential. However, Collins put Eubank on red alert by angling him with comments about a subject dear to Eubank's heart — himself.

Collins said that Eubank was so busy being the "Englishman at large" that he had

Srikumar Sen, boxing correspondent, on why a challenger may regret his jibe at champion

forgotten his African roots. Eubank left the press conference — and Ireland — in a temper, and is reported to be still angry, even though Collins tried to make amends by way of a letter to *Boxing News*.

It is unlikely that Collins's explanation will help matters. Eubank, who usually wants to win by doing as little as he can get away with, said: "I could go the distance, but I hope I knock him out. I saw him as a reasonable, balanced man before the press conference, but from then, he's been a non-entity. There are good people and bad, and he appears to be bad."

"This is not about the fight now; it's about honour. Collins has tried to dishonour me." This is not just hype. All 6,000 seats at a hall in Millstreet, 20 miles from Kilmaree, were sold within 24 hours of the bout being announced.

Although Eubank and Collins learnt their boxing in the United States, Collins is technically superior, having been to a better school, that of the Petronelli brothers, who trained Marvin Hagler. Collins has also met better opponents in Mike McCallum, Reggie Johnson and Sumbu Kalambay. They beat him, but McCallum and Johnson were World Boxing Associ-

ation champions, and all three were equally capable of defeating Eubank.

Both boxers have good chins, so the bout should be a competitive one for as long as it lasts. Collins, despite being supremely confident, has the more difficult task, being up against a counter-punching champion.

If Collins goes forward in his usual manner, he could be out-jabbed, even stopped, but, if he adopts a busy, in-and-out style, as Dan Schommers did, he could outpoint Eubank.

With three more contests of the eight-bout series to go for Eubank to pick up the rest of the £10 million from Sky Television, the champion is unlikely to let Collins spoil his retirement plans. Eubank should win a close decision on points.

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FEW people have the privilege of watching the England Rugby Union Team practice set piece moves during a rigorous training session in the run-up to a World Cup.

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FIRST TRYSCORER

6 R. Underwood	11 Logan
7 Guscott	14 Catt
7 T. Underwood	14 S. Hastings
10 Carling	14 Joiner

Other players on request.

WINNING MARGIN BETTING

ENGLAND	WINNING MARGIN	SCOTLAND
6	1-5 Pts	6
9/2	6-10 Pts	12
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Wales str

BY GEMMA DUFF

ES have not won a championship for 10 years. It's time to get back on top. Wales have a chance to do so when they face England in the first of two Test matches at Cardiff on Saturday.

The Welsh team, coached by Sir Ian Rogers, are looking to build on their recent success in the Six Nations tournament, where they finished runners-up to Ireland.

Wales' captain, Iwan Tuk, says the team is "very confident" and "ready to go". He adds that the players are "determined to win" and "show our true colours".

England, coached by Brian Ashton, are also looking to build on their recent success in the Six Nations, where they won the title. Ashton says his team is "very confident" and "ready to go". He adds that the players are "determined to win" and "show our true colours".

The match is expected to be a close one, with both teams having the potential to win. It is a crucial game for both sides, as they look to secure their positions in the Six Nations.

David Miller on the task of leading a tactically revived England team

Captain Carling finally comes of age

Rugby union is probably the most tactically complex team game there is: more so than cricket, a team game of individuals, and certainly more than rugby league. If England are playing well, it must therefore follow that Will Carling is doing a highly competent job as captain.

The former Sedburgh schoolboy is 29 and is in his seventh year as captain. At times, there have been criticisms that he did not exert sufficient influence: that, on the field, England had captaincy by committee; that the forwards or stand-off half were too much the decision-makers; that Carling was captain by osmosis. After all, had not two grand slam opportunities gone begging, the critics asked?

Yet the achievement of a grand slam — winning all four five nations' championship matches — is, in some ways, a confined and even arbitrary way of judging a captain's influence. England could lose today and still win the World Cup. Bill Beaumont, for example, famously won a grand slam, but in the technicalities of captaincy, is said to have had less than catalytic influence. The reality of Carling's impact has only fully emerged under Jack Rowell's management.

As Rowell observed: "Now is the time that Carling should be at his best as captain — and he's doing well. It is a coincidence that he's playing well."

Few at Twickenham today will have any idea of the complexity, and flexibility, of spontaneous command that is running through the England team from moment to moment.

Before Rowell's arrival, England tended on any day to have a fixed intention: plan A or plan B. Now, Rowell has the whole team thinking and adapting on the hoof. "He's very good, particularly at the broad picture," Carling said. "He's hands-off, yet quick to say, 'Hey!' if it's not



Carling takes charge of the half-time team talk. His aim is to instil an attitude of self-reliance

happening. There's a lot more info on the field among us. Previously, plan A had to be made to work, there was less flexibility. We had the best pieces in the world [with the forwards] and saw no reason to change. Jack doesn't have as structured a look [as Geoff Cooke]."

Rowell's approach to rugby management is similar to business efficiency: to facilitate delegation, to establish and achieve self-reliance on the field. Captaincy, he insists, is not a matter of saying do this, this and this.

"That's the old hat," Rowell said. "The captain shouldn't have to go and pick up the ball every time there's a penalty kick. He needs sub-managers. In rugby, there are a lot of moving parts, so the players must be physically, mentally and technically

fit enough to take their own decisions in split seconds. The captain has to be a good player, playing well, and have the man-management ability to keep the team going in the right direction, and that must be about winning."

In any organisation, Rowell says, there are power groups, or sub-teams. The pack must have its leaders (in the present instance, Moore, the hooker, and Richards at No 8). "The captain shouldn't necessarily be in the pack," he said. "Inside centre is a good position — not under pressure at the coalface, having the wider view. The team's potential is dependent on the captain."

While Carling relies on verbal communication from Moore or Richards, Rowell expects him to have the knowledge, and authority, to change things if he senses that they are not

working; to switch, say, from rucking to mauling, or vice versa.

"You can go only so far with a team by telling them," Carling said. "To win the World Cup, we shall need leaders throughout the side. That's not captaincy by committee, but co-ordination."

Rowell's management sets out to be non-interventionist by match day, an attempt to ensure that, ultimately, the team is run by the team. He cites, as an illustration of what he wants to avoid, the response of a Harlequins player when asked why they had lost a cup match to Bath — "we're going to ask the coach."

Halfway through the final team talk the night before any match, when Rowell has given his analysis, the remainder of the discussion is handled by Carling. And, for the last

30 minutes in the dressing-room before kick-off, there is no coach present, not even Rowell. "I want the mood where there can be no backsliding, where they know they are responsible, self-reliant," Rowell said. "I'm leading from the back. I want the captain leading at the front."

In the chain of command improvisation that runs from Moore and Richards through Bracken and Andrew to Carling and back again, there are predetermined codes to relay which player is intended to make the break at the next scrum or lineout, so that the back row can be sure to arrive simultaneously to create second-phase possession.

"It's imperative the forwards play well, so there's got to be a leader," Moore said. "Dean [Richards] is a voice of wisdom. He cuts through the verbiage. If we don't win the ball, we can't win matches. Mine's a primary job, as hooker. Will's is the overview. But both of us rely on Nos 8, 9 and 10 for the practicalities. They — Dean, Kyran and Rob — have to adapt, not attempt things that are not on. They direct the way in which first-phase [possession] becomes second-phase."

Carling is revelling in the team's development. He acknowledges that he was too young to be captain at 22, but then he did not ask for it. "Now, I don't have to spend time thinking about every aspect of play, which is a big help to my own game," he said. "I can get on and play."

Winning the World Cup, Carling thinks, will depend much on the ability to assess quickly breakdown situations; to break free from obsession with old, conventional English virtues such as the rolling maul, which brought the first try in Cardiff. To play what Jeremy Guscott has called "sharp, reactive rugby."

"If we push out our limits, our ambitions, we can do it," Carling said. "If we resort to our former restrictive game, we won't."

No way will we be caught out by old mistakes



ROB ANDREW

On the grand slam decider

Five years after England suffered a grand slam defeat at Murrayfield, which hurt deeply at the time and for some while afterwards, we meet Scotland again today for another winner-takes-all rugby union confrontation.

It will not stretch the imagination of the tabloids to mark this match down as the classic revenge match. While I do not attempt to mask our disappointment at that 1990 defeat, I do believe we have to be careful not to lay too much store on that match. A lot has happened to English rugby since then.

We have won two grand slams, played in a World Cup final and won an international in South Africa. In other words, English rugby has developed a great deal since 1990. That day, England had not won a grand slam for ten years and it would have been the first success for every member of that team. It was an emotional day, a situation we had never faced before and, as a team, we did not cope well.

Since then, many of us have played in big games around the world, including international matches for the British Isles. Therefore, I believe we are now better prepared and ready for today's grand slam decider. Five years ago, we approached the game in the wrong way: we were too confident, we were slack and loose going into the match. This week, in training, I have detected no signs of such a careless attitude. Mentally, we are sharper.

There is one other vital difference: this time, the match is at Twickenham. Scotland had the Murrayfield factor to help them in 1990. The Twickenham factor will be just as important to us today. The Scots have come from nowhere to challenge for a grand slam and all credit to them. We must not underestimate them in any way. We set out this season to win all our games and then attempt to win the World Cup, and there is no point going into our shells now and apologising for that aim. We have to be big enough to beat Scotland and

so complete the first part of the task.

We were glad that Scotland beat Wales to set up this situation because it puts us to the test once again. The more big games that we play as a team now, the better equipped we will be to cope with what is thrown at us in South Africa.

So far, this side has shown around 70 per cent of its potential. We have not played anywhere near our best yet, and have not quite put everything together in any of our three matches in the championship. But, we have the capacity to do it. You never quite know when it will happen.

Once more, goalkicking is likely to be important, and I hope that my form will revert to its pre-Christmas level. Then, it was almost too good to be true. At one time, I had kicked 22 out of 23, or something like that. But I had done a lot of practice and, since Christmas, conditions have been awful, so it has not been as easy to get out and work on it.

I have been able to rediscover that groove since then, and I find that, unless I practise a great deal, I slip from that level.

Some have mentioned the Predator boots that I am wearing as a cause, but it has nothing to do with them. There are strong benefits with this boot: the rubber uppers give more power. There is a greater margin for error in goalkicking and punting because of the greater surface on the boot, which means that the ball does not escape off the side so easily. They also keep their shape better than conventional boots.

Neil Jenkins wears them, as do several of the Australians and one or two Frenchmen. It has a lot going for it. We are still working on developing the boot and I will stick with it.

I can't blame that for missing a few kicks. Probably the biggest mistake I made was kicking 12 out of 12 against Canada. Mind you, I won't complain if that form reappears today.

Rob Andrew was talking to Peter Bills.

Milne unmoved by memories of glory

By MARK SOUSTER

ON A wall at one of Kenny Milne's favourite bars in Edinburgh, run by Ian Barnes, the former Scotland international, hangs a montage of the 1990 grand slam-winning team.

In the centre is John Jeffrey, ball in hands, leading the charge against the auld enemy. Look closely and you can just see Milne's doleful, lugubrious features in the bottom right-hand corner.

That is Kenny Milne all over, quiet, self-effacing, an unsung player who has not had the recognition he deserves in six years of unstinting national service. Not that he is bitter. He is just realistic about his role in the unglamorous world of the front row.

At the age of 33 and just a few months older than Gavin Hastings, the Scotland captain, Milne, one of three rugby-playing brothers, (Ian, "The Bear", was the cornerstone of the 1984 grand slam pack) is the most senior of the four survivors from 1990. The challenge this time, in the five nations' championship decider against England at Twickenham today, is, he believes, far greater.

"From one to 15, England are a stronger side," he said. "In 1990, we felt they had weaknesses. They had a full back who could only kick and a back row and props who weren't as good as they are now."

"But, of course, we go into

the match with confidence and will give it our best shot. I think most Scots would have been delighted that we won our two home games. Now, we have a golden opportunity, and we are not going out there thinking we're going to get stuffed. Realistically, we could sneak a win 9-8, or equally get beaten by 30 or 40 points. Any side which puts 30 points past France must be good."

Then so must any team that wins at Parc des Princes. However, building up the opposition off the field before knocking them down on it is an art Scotland have perfected. It certainly worked five years ago.

Milne, a sales manager with an Edinburgh printing company, continued: "In the build-up then, I thought we had no chance at all. England had played some phenomenal rugby, but the nearer we got to the match the more the coaches got us thinking we could and would win. We did, and that's the beauty of sport. You can upset the odds."

Surprisingly, perhaps, the united front presented by that Scotland team, a collective willingness to die for the cause, disguised factions within the squad.

Milne said: "In 1990, a nucleus of four or five players put themselves on a pedestal. They had their own team meetings away from the rest of the side, which I don't think is necessarily good for morale."

"This Scottish team is prob-

ably a more complete side. It doesn't rely on one or two individuals. It's very much a team effort which engenders great team spirit."

That spirit, on the back of four successive wins, has sent confidence soaring. "In the first two matches of the five nations' this year, we had some luck, with Ireland's and France's goalkickers off form," Milne said. "But that rub of the green has transformed things. I'm a great believer that the difference between winning and losing is that wee bit of luck, however you get it."

However, in general in the past, Scottish players have been afraid to try anything for fear of making a mistake. Now, we try things, forwards, for instance, will pop the ball up. The whole team is confident with a ball in hand."

Milne's approach to rugby is not of the sabre-rattling variety, in stark contrast to that of the abrasive Brian Moore, his opposite number at hooker today, who enjoys nothing more than baiting the opposition, especially if it is Scotland. Milne, the hangdog, believes the bulldog's bark is worse than his bite.

"I get on fine with Brian," he said. "Never had any problem with him on or off the field. Brian loves to spout off and rub people up the wrong way. He's certainly a very patriotic Englishman." For once, you get the feeling that the normally reserved Milne would enjoy having the last word.



Milne, whose self-effacing style has graced the Scotland front row for six years

Wales strive to end bizarre home sequence

By GERALD DAVIES

WALES have not won a five nations' championship match in Paris for 20 years. Ten years have gone by since they returned flushed with success from Murrayfield. These are worrying statistics for any Welshman. Twickenham, curiously, where Wales have won twice on their last six visits, has yet to acquire the same fortress quality which these other two have come to characterise. Time may amend that.

This is by way of gradual introduction to Wales's encounter with Ireland this afternoon at Cardiff Arms Park, the outcome of which represents the most intriguing, nay, the most extraordinary statistic of all. Strange to relate, but Wales have striven in vain to gain any victories at their own beloved Arms Park against Ireland since 1983.

To express the exceptional, even bizarre, nature of this is not in any way to belittle or undervalue Ireland. Far from it. The other home countries may have dispatched Wales, sometimes airily and disdain-

fully of late, from their own green acres, but they have been forced to eat humble pie in Cardiff. England, famously, have dropped a couple of clangers there, while Scotland seldom achieve anywhere near the same consistent firepower away from Edinburgh. Only France can boast an equal period of solid triumph. Ireland's only concession of sympathy towards the Welsh was a draw in 1991.

Wales may have felt hard-done by on occasions, notably when Manion, the Ireland No 8, ran spectacularly for 70 metres for a try in 1989, but more often than not they must stand by their own faults. The rub of the green may have gone Ireland's way.

That is not to understate Ireland's case, rather to reinforce their achievement. The bounce of the ball goes the way of the brave and determined. Rarely does it go the way of the one who hesitates, or is fragile, or is slow, shall we say, in coming forward. Oddly enough, Ireland have suffered almost as often at Lansdowne Road — they have lost five out of their seven

encounters with Wales since 1982. Thus, it represents a curious fixture.

Once more, the two countries battle to avoid bottom place which, apart from last season when Wales were

champions, have been their fate since 1989. The match today — sponsored by CableTel — is similar to the one in 1990, when Ireland's victory gave Wales the white-wash. It was Ireland's turn to

be pointless in 1992, but the drawn game the previous year gave each their only point of the championship. In 1993, Ieuan Evans's try against England gave his country a single-point victory for their only championship points.

Had Wales not lost to England and had gone on to win the grand slam last year, would the contrast between two seasons be starker? From the top to the bottom in 12 months. Scotland managed to accomplish this feat in 1984 and 1985 — grand slam one year, whitewashed winners of the wooden spoon the next.

Quite what to make of the encounter this afternoon is anyone's guess, and with the above history in mind as much as the tribulations that both teams have suffered this season, any view would be bound to be suspect. Attempts have been made to put the match in a broader context by referring to their showdown in the World Cup this summer: win or lose today would give one side or the other some kind of psychological advantage. That sounds pure baloney.

There have been injuries and mishaps, lots of comings and goings of players, on both sides, which may have affected team performance. Ireland make six changes, two of a positional nature, after their loss to France. Michael Bradley, their captain, is a victim. Terry Kingston, who was not in the frame as hooker at the start of the season, takes over.

Wales, originally, had made three changes with one new cap, Andrew Gibbs, coming in for Hemi Taylor on the flank. Phil Davies returns to lock, while Clement, who was chosen at full back, withdrew yesterday and Matthew Back stays in his position.

Neither country seems to have made any progress during the championship so that events today make them look shipwrecked at the bottom, while the armada moves on elsewhere. Their pride, however, is at stake. In attempting to salvage it, let us hope they do so by being true to their traditions and play invigorating rugby. Both countries need, above winning the game, to win back their countrymen's hearts.

CARDIFF TEAMS

WALES

M J Back (Bridgend)
I C Evans (Llanelli)*
M R Hall (Cardiff)
N G Davies (Llanelli)
W T Proctor (Llanelli)
N R Jenkins (Pontypridd)
R N Jones (Swansea)
M Griffiths (Cardiff)
G R Jenkins (Swansea)
S C John (Llanelli)
A Gibbs (Newbridge)
P T Davies (Llanelli)
G O Llewellyn (Neath)
R G Collins (Pontypridd)
E W Lewis (Cardiff)

* captain

IRELAND

J E Staples (Harlequins)
R M Wallace (Garryowen)
B J Mullin (Blackrock College)
P P A Danaher (Garryowen)
S P Geoghegan (Bath)
E P Elwood (Lansdowne)
N A Hogan (Terenure College)
N J Popplewell (Waspas)
T J Kingston (Dolphin)*
P M N Clohessey (Young Munster)
A G Foley (Shannon)
G M Fulcher (Cork Constitution)
D A Tweed (Ballymena)
E O Halvey (Shannon)
P S Johns (Dungannon)

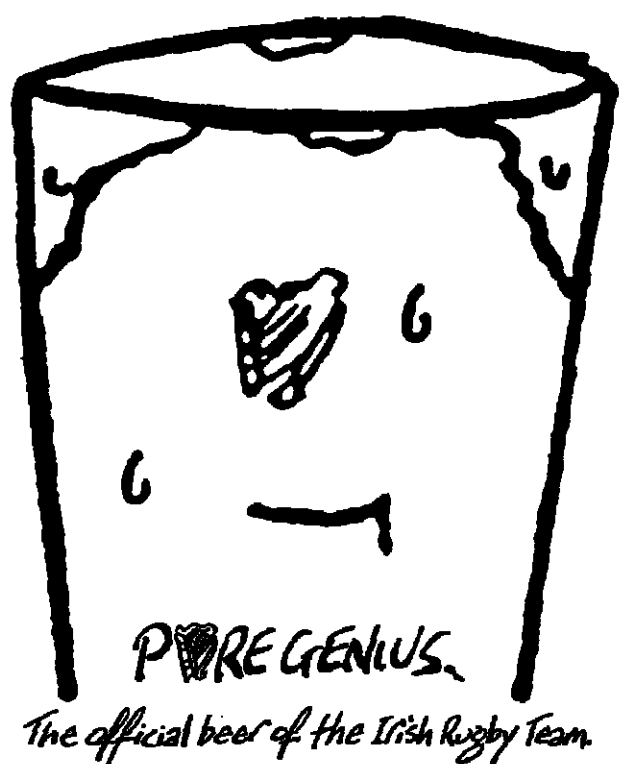
* captain

Referee: R J Magonis (Scotland)

REPLACEMENTS: 16 A Davies (Cardiff), 17 R H St J B Moon (Cardiff), 18 H T Taylor (Cardiff), 19 D Jones (Cardiff), 20 H Williams-Jones (Llanelli), 21 R C McBryde (Llanelli).

REPLACEMENTS: 16 M J Field (Malone), 17 A Burke (Cork Constitution), 18 M T Bradley (Cork Constitution), 19 G F Halpin (London Irish), 20 S J Byrne (Blackrock College), 21 D Corkery (Cork Constitution).

The Welsh may have good voices, but we have the perfect accompaniment.



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SPORT

SATURDAY MARCH 18 1995

GOLF 41

LOSING BATTLE FOR
WOOSNAM AND
LYLE IN FLORIDA

Relaxed Scots relish grand slam challenge as worldwide audience hopes for the best

England set out to live up to the hype

BY DAVID HANDS
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

THE talking stops at Twickenham this afternoon. The players of England and Scotland will breathe a sigh of relief when the action finally starts, for the build-up to the climax of rugby union's 1995 five nations' championship outweighs anything that has gone before — including England's World Cup final appearance of four years ago.

The sport's appeal has increased immeasurably in that time so that it is no exaggeration to say that this match will have a resonance far beyond that generated by the 60,000 who will throng Twickenham and the domestic television audience. The Rugby Football Union has fielded calls from France, South Africa, the United States and Argentina, as well as throughout the four home unions, all seeking their percentage of time with Will Carling's team, while the black market is capable of charging an unprecedented £750 for a single ticket.

In strictly rugby terms, the southern hemisphere will



Peter Seward, the dressing room supervisor at Twickenham, lays out the England kit in readiness for the grand slam decider with Scotland this afternoon. Photograph: Marc Aspland

TABLE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
England	3	3	0	0	74	27	6
Scotland	3	0	0	0	75	47	6
France	4	2	0	2	77	70	4
Wales	3	0	0	3	31	70	0
Ireland	3	0	0	3	28	71	0

RESULTS: Ireland 8 England 20, France 21 Wales 9, England 31 France 10, Scotland 26 Ireland 13, Wales 9 England 23, France 21 Scotland 23, Scotland 26 Wales 13, Ireland 7 France 25.

FIXTURES: Today: England v Scotland, Wales v Ireland.

GRAND SLAM WINNERS: England have won the grand slam on ten occasions (1913, 1914, 1921, 1923, 1924, 1928, 1957, 1980, 1991, 1992). Scotland have had success three times (1925, 1984, 1990).

watch intently the outcome of the 112th match between the two countries, the Save and Prosper international on which hang all the physical and mythical prizes that the championship can offer: the Calcutta Cup, which England have held for the past four years, the championship trophy, the triple crown and the grand slam.

Although New Zealanders will be as interested in the wooden spoon match between Wales and Ireland, as all three countries are in the same World Cup pool, Australasians will recognise that this afternoon's Twickenham winner represents a formidable threat to their domination of the World Cup, which they hope to sustain in South Africa this summer. They, and we, had thought France a far more potent force than this championship has suggested.

The Scots are relishing the atmosphere far more evidently than England, who appeared for a terse, tense half-hour yesterday and then retreated to monastic contemplation of a grand slam for which they are outstanding, and entirely justified, favourites. In contrast, Scotland

larked around Richmond and appeared totally relaxed, as perhaps only the young can be in a situation the significance of which they are only just coming to realise.

One who knows it all too well is Gavin Hastings, whose last international appearance at Twickenham this will be. The Scotland captain declines to speculate upon his retirement — the success, or otherwise, of Scotland's World Cup may determine that, as does the absence of an obvious successor — but he admits that, by 1997, when he will be 35, he will have gone.

In that case Twickenham will do well to pay tribute to a magnificent player, whatever the outcome. Hastings has been an inspiration, as well as a record points-gatherer, for Scotland, but Twickenham is a blot on his escutcheon: neither he nor Scotland have won an international there since 1983, though Hastings will point out that it was even longer since they had beaten France at the Parc des Princes and this season, finally, they succeeded.

"History speaks for itself," he said. "But it's our intention to enjoy the weekend for what

it is, one of the most unique occasions any of us has ever played in, and that includes the guys who played five years ago [when Scotland won the grand slam match with England at Murrayfield].

"It's probably the biggest challenge of our lives. Dougie Morgan keeps reminding us we haven't won anything yet, but we have earned the right to the attention we are getting by the way we have played this year. For a game of this enormity, the hype is inevitable. I quite enjoy it."

Morgan, the coach who has already expressed his intention of standing down after the World Cup, believes Twickenham to be a less intimidating stadium than when he played in the 1970s. "It was like playing down a back alley, with the terraces and stands so close to the pitch, but now it's opened out," he said. "It's a tremendous stadium and England are a very good side, better organised on and off the field than they were in 1990."

Both camps have been genuinely respectful of the other's achievements this season which, coincidentally, have led to certain similarities in playing style. Both seek to

ENGLAND	SCOTLAND
M J Catt (Bath)	15 A G Hastings (Walesians)*
T Underwood (Leicester)	14 C A Joiner (Meirrose)
W D C Carling (Harlequins)*	13 G P J Townsend (Sale)
J C Guscott (Bath)	12 S Hastings (Walesians)
R Underwood (Leicester/RAF)	11 K M Logan (Strirling County)
C R Andrew (Waspas)	10 C M Chisham (Meirrose)
K P P Bradshaw (Bristol)	9 B W Redpath (Meirrose)
J Leonard (Harlequins)	1 D I W Hilton (Bath)
B C Moore (Harlequins)	2 K S Milne (Harlequins)
V E Ugochi (Bath)	3 P H Wright (Boroughmuir)
T A K Rodber (Northampton/Army)	6 R I Walwright (W Hartlepool/Army)
M O Johnson (Leicester)	4 G W Weir (Meirrose)
M C Bayfield (Northampton)	5 S J Campbell (Dundee HSFP)
B B Clarke (Bath)	7 I R Morrison (London Scottish)
D Richards (Leicester)	8 E W Peters (Bath)

* captain

Referee: B W Stirling (Ireland)

REPLACEMENTS: 16 J E B Callard (Bath), 17 P R de Glanville (Bath), 18 C D Morris (Orest), 19 S O Ojomoh (Bath), 20 G R Botteman (Saracens), 21 G C Rowntree (Leicester).

keep the ball in hand, with such players as Victor Ugochi, for England, and Peter Wright, for Scotland, driving close to the fringes and creating further opportunities for the back row (where two Army officers, Tim Rodber and Rob

Wainwright, collide) and half backs. To categorise England as a mauling team, or Scotland as kickers and chasers only, is to do a disservice to both teams and those who prepare them — who include, on both sides,

a sports psychologist so that the match is also an advertisement for positive thinking. It is important for the northern hemisphere that it should also represent the best that rugby can offer, so that both sides can go forward to South Africa on a confident roll.

It will be a landmark in the careers of Rob Andrew and Jason Leonard: Andrew, the England stand-off half, requires only two points to pass Jonathan Webb's individual points total in internationals of 296, while Leonard becomes his country's most-capped prop forward with his 38th consecutive appearance, passing the mark established by Jeff Probyn, in 1993.

When Leonard was still at Saracens, he played alongside Greg Botteman, who yesterday stepped onto the English bench after the withdrawal of Graham Dawe, of Bath, with a calf injury. Hookers are a notoriously healthy breed, but Sod's Law suggests that Botteman, 27 and in what may be his only appearance at this level, could pick up a cap after leapfrogging over Mark Regan and Richard Cockerill, who are both with the A team who play Natal in Durban

today. He will remember the day for the rest of his life. Captain Tony Hallett, who as chairman of the Twickenham ground committee has done so much in planning the redevelopment of English rugby's headquarters, was yesterday named successor to Dudley Wood as the secretary of the Rugby Football Union. Hallett, 50, will take up his appointment on July 15, after 32 years' service in the Royal Navy. "These are exciting times for the game in England," he said.

Photograph, page 1
Catt portrait, page 42
Carling's lead, page 43
Wales prepare, page 43



ON MONDAY

Rob Andrew, David Miller, David Hands and Simon Barnes on the grand slam decider at Twickenham

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Draw keeps dream alive

BY RUSSELL KEMPSON

AN ALL-English European football final, for the first time since 1972, moved a step nearer yesterday when Arsenal and Chelsea avoided each other in the semi-final draw for the Cup Winners' Cup. Arsenal, the holders, play Sampdoria, of Italy, while Chelsea take on Real Zaragoza, of Spain.

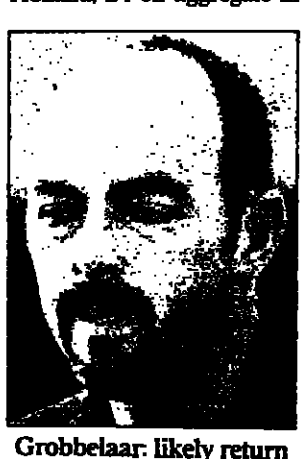
If the London clubs progress into the final, it could be held at Wembley. It is due to be staged at the Parc des Princes in Paris on May 10, but Uefa, the sport's European governing body, is unlikely to need much persuasion to switch venues. The last all-English final, in the Uefa Cup 23 years ago, was between Tottenham Hotspur and Wolverhampton Wanderers, with Tottenham winning over two legs.

However, such a notion is still a long way off, with Zaragoza and Sampdoria more than capable of producing a Spanish-Italian decider. Arsenal have met Sampdoria twice in recent years, in the final of the pre-season Makita International tournament, and have lost twice. "Everybody in the country will want an all-England European final," Stewart Houston, the Arsenal caretaker manager, said. "It may be just what is

needed to boost the image of the game here. Sampdoria will be a very tough test and, at this stage of a major competition, you will find the same against anybody. They are a quality side and most people's favourites to win it."

Sampdoria, who travel to Highbury for the first leg, will be without David Platt, the England captain. He was sent off, for the first time in his career, in the quarter-final victory — on penalties after a 1-1 aggregate draw — over FC Porto, of Portugal. Platt will also miss the return match in Genoa.

Zaragoza overturned a 1-0 deficit to beat Feyenoord, of Holland, 2-1 on aggregate in



Grobelaar: likely return

the quarter-finals. They will host the first leg of the semi-final. "I'm glad we are going there first because any sort of half-decent result will leave us well set-up for the second leg," Glenn Hoddle, the Chelsea player-manager, said.

"Neither Stewart Houston nor myself can start thinking about an all-London final yet. We both need too many points yet for Premier League safety to concentrate on anything else."

Bruce Grobbelaar, the Southampton goalkeeper, is likely to reclaim his place for their FA Carling Premiership match against Nottingham Forest at the City Ground today. Grobbelaar was released from police custody on Wednesday, after helping with inquiries into allegations of match-fixing, and was replaced by Dave Beasant for the 1-1 draw with West Ham United the same night.

Grobelaar has since had his passport confiscated by Hampshire police, which will prevent him playing for Zimbabwe.

DRAW: Cup Winners' Cup: Arsenal v Sampdoria, Real Zaragoza v Chelsea. First legs April 6, second legs April 20. First in Paris on May 10. Uefa Cup: Bayer Leverkusen v Parma; Juventus v Borussia Dortmund. First legs April 4, second legs April 19.

Weekend view, page 40

Mansell yields head start

BY OLIVER HOLT

IT HAS been a bad week for Nigel Mansell. On Tuesday, a Vauxhall Astra put a small dent in the rear of his Mercedes in a Devon country lane; yesterday, a long-predicted announcement from McLaren Mercedes all but wrote off any chance he had of challenging the other leading contenders for the Formula One motor racing world championship this season.

Yesterday morning McLaren conceded defeat in their battle to tinker with their car's chassis so that Mansell could sit comfortably in it. The 1992 world champion will miss the first two grands prix of the season, in Brazil a week tomorrow and in Argentina on April 9.

McLaren tried to put on a brave face and they have appointed a capable temporary replacement in Mark Blundell, their former test driver, who had been resigned to not having a Formula One drive this season. But all the attempts at damage limitation could not disguise the fact that they have been thrown into disarray.

This was supposed to be a bright new dawn for them after two disappointing seasons and much was expected of the partnership with Mercedes. But, even discount-

ing the problems encountered by Mansell, the new McLaren has been distressingly off the pace during testing in Estoril, Portugal, where it has been driven by Mansell's teammate, Mika Hakkinen.

Sources inside McLaren say Mansell was unhappy not only with his discomfort in the cockpit but also with the performance of the car. He is known as a hard taskmaster who demands complete commitment from the teams he drives for and may have asked for wide-ranging changes.

There was also speculation

Favourite leads in Welsh Rally 37

yesterday that Mansell's absence from the South American races, which will dismay Marlboro, the McLaren sponsors who bankrolled Mansell's recruitment, might mark the beginning of the end of the driver's allegiance to the team and lead to a permanent split.

McLaren moved quickly to quell that rumour. "All the parties have made a commitment for 12 months," a team spokesman said. "The team is capable of developing the car Nigel Mansell wants and of course, he will be going ahead

from Imola onwards with the team."

The team's recently-launched car incorporated a number of innovative features and had been designed before the decision that Nigel would drive for McLaren. On Nigel's test of the car at Estoril, he and the team realised that he could not achieve a comfortable driving position in the car and that this would compromise his performance.

It seems certain Mansell will return for the San Marino Grand Prix at Imola on April 30 once the new chassis has been developed and crash-tested.

Taking into account the wages paid by McLaren and the extra man-hours needed, the materials and parts involved, each of several new chassis could cost them up to £1 million. They are already thought to be paying Mansell, 41, a £7 million salary.

Mansell, who returned to the Isle of Man yesterday, would not comment. But the mix-up may leave him trailing Michael Schumacher and Damon Hill by a considerable number of points by the time the Formula One circus reaches Europe. Humour will not have been improved by the knowledge that he is blameless.

BOOKS



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OFFERS



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SHOPPING



Get ahead with a hat for the start of spring
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TRAVEL

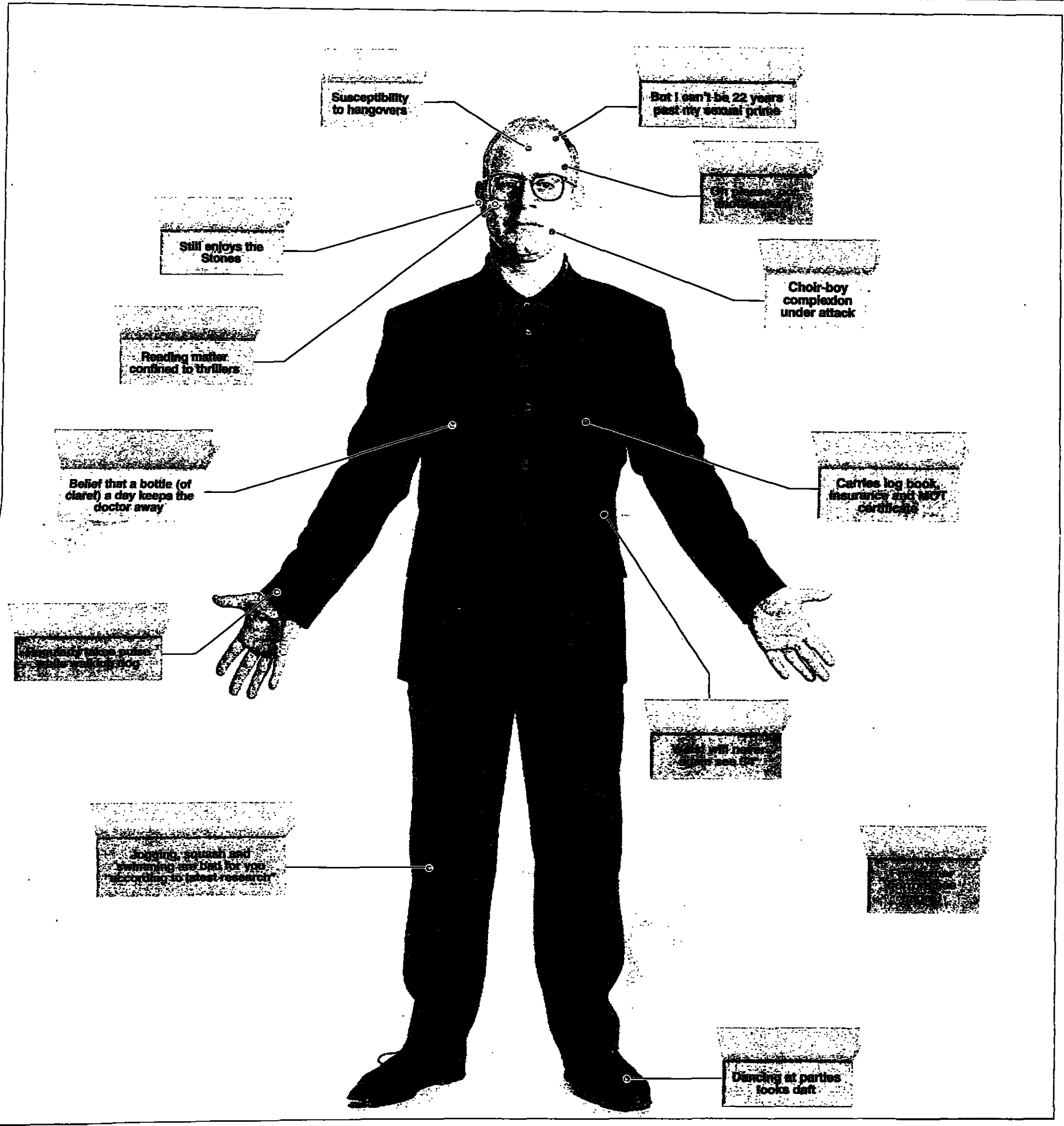


Easter escapes for all the family
Page 20
PLUS: Wining and dining in Rioja, page 18

WEEKEND

TWENTY WAYS TO TELL YOU'RE MIDDLE-AGED

By John Diamond



Labels include:

- Susceptibility to hangers
- But I can't be 22 years past my sexual prime
- Still enjoys the Stones
- Choir-boy complexion under attack
- Reading matter confined to thrillers
- Belief that a bottle (of claret) a day keeps the doctor away
- Carries log book, insurance and MOT card
- Shopping, sexual and swimming are dull for you according to latest research
- Dancing at parties looks daft

Friday night, last week. It is getting on for midnight in the middle of London, the pubs have chuckled out and I'm standing on the pavement with some people I work with a couple of days each week. They are young people, people in their 20s, people who have to screw up their smooth faces and think hard to work out my too-frequent references to the Wilson years or Norman Vaughan. We are all after-work drunk and going on to a party.

I close my eyes and hear the familiar sounds: the cheap, party booze bottles clinking in the thin plastic bags, the overbright giggling, the benign but neighbour-waking bellows of a tipsy gang who can't begin to understand why the neighbours might be asleep before midnight on a Friday night when there's such a good time to be had here on the pavement.

They are, I realise, the Friday-midnight sounds of my youth. Their youth, too, I guess. It's just that we have different youths.

I go home and leave them to their party. No, it's not that I'm too old for this, I tell them: it's just that it's been a long day and I just want to be in bed, my bed, asleep.

I feel, although I am not, middle-aged. Rather it is as if I am still a young man allowed a sudden miserable revelation — that I don't have to stay out late on Fridays or go out at all on Saturday night to know I'm living a life.

Then again, middle-age, said Ogden Nash rather too pointedly for my liking, is hearing the phone ring on while you're sitting at home on Saturday night and hoping it isn't for you. Perhaps Nash was right. I'm 41, and if I'm not middle-aged then who is?

A couple of years ago my kid brother — at 35 he's still my kid brother — had some old super-8 holiday film transferred on to video. The film was almost as old as my brother: he's there toddling about a drizzly Westcliff or Margate, my other brother is making faces into the lens and I'm a seven or eight-year-old, jerkily spading damp sand, licking 99 cones, kicking a beachball in that ungainly way children have.

Overseeing the three of us is a smiling middle-aged man. Middle-aged haircut, middle-aged sweater, middle-aged shoes. A man who knows his responsibilities, who knows he has nothing to do with the teenagers and the 20-year-olds hanging around on the beach. It isn't until the end of the film that it comes to me that the middle-aged man in the film, my father then in his mid-thirties, is younger than I was as I watched him.

So why was he middle-aged and, glib old Ogden Nash notwithstanding, I'm not?

It's not just that he had three children by the age of 35 and I've just had my first. Nor can I quite convince myself that it's all a matter of attitude, despite what I find in those books of wacky quotations listing wry definitions of middle-age from Bennett Cerf and Bob Hope and, of course, Ogden Nash. Yes, of course, I know people who bought their first grey Marks & Spencer suit at 20 and, more worryingly still, used a Marks' charge-card to pay for it, and others who affect a perky and tedious youthfulness as they pick up their pension Giro, but those

Continued on page 3, col 1

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DANCE

John Percival

HIGHLAND FLING: Matthew Bourne's "romantic wee ballet" comes to the Donmar Warehouse for three weeks, encouraged by sold-out houses at the Lillian Baylis last year. A spoof of the celebrated old classic *La Sylphide*, updated to a setting in present-day working-class Glasgow, it has witty designs (a tartan phantasmagoria) by Lez Brotherstone and spirited performances by Bourne's group AMP. Donmar Warehouse, Earls Court Road, London WC2 (0171-369 1732), Tues 21 at 8pm, Wed 22 at 7pm, then daily except Sundays until Sat Apr 8 at 8pm; matinees: Thurs and Sat at 3pm. £

TANGO VARIATIONS: Laurie Booth collaborates with the Argentine-born, Spanish-based composer Juan Cedron for his new work, which promises a radical interpretation of the tango, as dance and as music. Ellen van Schuylenburch and four other dancers join Booth on stage, and the Cuarteto Cedron (who have ten bestselling albums to their name) make a rare appearance in Britain for this week's premiere on the South Bank as part of the Spring Loaded festival. During the spring, Booth tours the show to Woking, Blackpool, Aldeburgh, Edinburgh, and Oxford. Queen Elizabeth Hall, South Bank Centre, London SE1 (0171-928 8800), Thurs 23, Fri 24, at 7.45pm. £

ROCK

David Sinclair

LUTHER VANDROSS: An increasingly frequent visitor to these shores, Luther Vandross returns to finish the job he started at London's Albert Hall last September. These shows will be built around the selection of cover versions which he recorded for last year's hugely successful album, *Songs*. As well as



Luther Vandross in soulful voice

Vandross staples such as *Never Too Much* and *The Best Things In Life Are Free*. The evening's repertoire is likely to include silky smooth versions of *Love Train*, *You're My Best Friend*, *Killing Me Softly With His Song*, and, of course, *Endless Love*, recorded as a spectacularly overwrought duet with Mariah Carey. It all comes with lashings of showbiz, but nobody does this kind of gold-plated, arena-strength soul better. Sheffield Arena £ (0114 2565656), Mar 21: G-Mex, Manchester £ (0161-832 9000), Mar 22: Wembley Arena £ (0181-900 1234), Mar 24, 25, 30, 31: NEC, Birmingham £ (0121-780 4133), Mar 27 and 28.

SIMPLE MINDS: With their days of playing stadiums behind them, Simple Minds are reduced to the core line-up of singer Jim Kerr and guitarist Charlie Burchill plus assorted hired hands. But although they are now hideously unfashionable, the Minds have turned up the guitars and reined back on the ornamental excess to produce a surprisingly dignified and alert comeback album, *Good News From The Next World*. Just do not expect them to exercise any restraint when it comes to their live shows where it will be all hands on deck as the lads go striding across foggy stages, illuminated by mountainous washes of lights and lasers, to belt out their grandiose themes and titanic choruses at booming, ribcage-rattling volume. Sheffield Arena £ (0114 2565656), Mar 20: G-Mex, Manchester £ (0161-832 9000), Mar 21: NEC, Birmingham £ (0121-780 4133), Mar 23 and 24: London Arena £ (0171-587 1414), Mar 26: Wembley Arena £ (0181-900 1234), Mar 27.

JAZZ

Clive Davis

URBANOTRONE: The trumpeter Tom Browne flew into the pop charts some years ago with his breezy anthem *Funkin' For Jamaica*. He returns to London in a band whose focal point is likely to be Michal Urbanak, the Polish-born virtuoso who has smuggled that unwieldy hybrid, the electric violin, on to innumerable fusion albums. Miles Davis's *Tutu* among them. Another crossover veteran, Leroy White, takes care of the percussion duties on this visit. The straight-ahead jazz quotient will be in the hands of the Alan Barnes-Bruce



Scott Ambler and Maxine Fone will be dancing the Highland Fling at the Donmar Warehouse

THEATRE

Benedict Nightingale

Adams Quintet: whose urbane mainstream to bop repertoire has made it the outstanding new British group of the past five years. Ronnie Scott's, Frith St, London W1 (0171-439 0747), Mon 20 to Sat 25, first set from 9.30pm.

EMPRESS OF THE BLUES: Bessie Smith's tumultuous life has been dramatised before, most famously in an early work by Edward Albee which helped to popularise the story (later proven to be false) that the singer succumbed to injuries sustained in a car crash after being turned away from a whites-only hospital in Mississippi. The show starring the piano and vocals team of Keith and Marcia Pendlebury — performed in Edinburgh last year — promises to be a much lighter affair. In their hands the most celebrated of the blues classics are mixed with off-beat humour and dance routines supplied by that hyperkinetic troupe, the Jiving Lindyhopers. Blackheath Concert Halls, Lee Rd, London SE3 (0181-463 0100), Mon 20 to Fri 24, 8pm.

THE WINTER GUEST: The visitor of the title is death, though, unlike Mozart's stone guest, he never puts in a personal appearance. But his chilling hand is felt by most of the characters in Alan Rickman's wonderfully atmospheric production of Sharran Macdonald's poignant ragtime comedy, among them boys playing truant from school, old ladies whose hobby is going to funerals, and Phyllida Law as an elderly mother nagging her widowed daughter, Almeida, Almeida Street, London N1 (0171-359 4404), Mon to Sat at 8pm; matinee: Sat at 4pm. £

AGAMEMNON'S CHILDREN: Euripides's version of the latter-day fallings of the House of Atreus is given new life in Laurence Boswell's energetic production. The main play on the Gate's stage changes each week, but on matinee days all three — *Orestes*, *Iphigenia* and *Electra* — are performed. Gate, Penbridge Road, London W11 (0171-228 0706), Evenings: *Iphigenia*, Mon 20 to Fri 24 at 7.30pm; matinees: Sat and Wed, *Electra* at 2.30pm, *Orestes* at 5pm. Continues in repertoire. £

More theatre, page 6.

FILMS

Geoff Brown

LITTLE WOMEN (U): You might not have thought we needed another version of Louisa May, Alcott's 19th-century classic, but here it is, and it succeeds wonderfully. The Australian director Gillian Armstrong plays up the feminist angle whenever possible, but does nothing to seriously distort the tale of Mrs March's New England girls — Jo, Beth, Meg and Amy. Her unforced pace gives us time to savour the emotions as Jo develops her literary gifts. Beth falls victim to scarlet fever, and suitors come and go.

Excellent performances from Winona Ryder, Trini Alvarado, Susan Sarandon, Christian Bale and the other attendant males: while the well-upholstered production, rich in pretty scenery and sepia tones, never buries the characters and the pangs in the hearts. Odeon Leicester Square (0426 915 683).

PRIEST (15): A griggish Catholic priest comes up to Liverpool to do some good in the inner city, only to battle with a personal secret: he is gay. Festival audiences on both sides of the Atlantic have been swept away by Antonia Bird's film, written by Jimmy McGovern, though to succumb completely you must forgive Bird's directorial bullying, Linus Roache's unappealing hero, and the overcrowded script. However, it is good to find any British film that stirs strong emotions and attacks hypocrisy with vigour and verve. Clapham Picture House (0171-498 3323); Curzon West End (0171-369 1722); MGM Fulham Road £ (0171-370 2630); Renoir (0171-837 8402) Screen/Screen (0171-226 3520); Warner £ (0171-437 4343).

• More films, page 6.

OPERA

Rodney Milnes

SALOME: If playing Strauss's horror-comic opera as a rather earnest study of a dysfunctional family sounds off-putting, that is to reckon without the performances of Catherine Malfitano in the title role and Bryn Terfel as the man she goes out to get, in whole or in part — the chemistry between the two is spine-tingling. Both deliver the vocal goods with delicacy as well as volume. Malfitano dangerously insinuating in her soft singing. Terfel gently fervent in his description of that preacher on the Sea of Galilee. Anja Silja plays Herodias as a mother from hell, cocktail glass at the ready, and the ending is truly disgusting — the head comes giff-wrapped in a bloody cloth, gradually to be unveiled. Ugh! Christoph von Dohnányi conducts brilliantly. Royal Opera House, Bow St, London WC2 (0171-304 4000), tonight, 8pm. £

CHERYOMUSHKI: Pimlico Opera's production of Shostakovich's operetta was last autumn's operatic "sleeper" (i.e., it sold out, rather than everyone's surprise), so back it comes for another run at the Lyric Hammersmith, starting on Friday. Surprise? Because a comedy about a Moscow housing estate in 1958, squeaky-clean young heroes and heroines and corrupt party officials does not sound too promising, but Shostakovich's catchy tunes are a delight (Offenbach *à la Russe*) and there are added bonuses in David Pountney's witty translation and Gerard McBurney's idiomatic re-orchestration. Enormous fun. Lyric Theatre, King St, Hammersmith, London W6 (0181-741 2311), Wed 22, Thurs 23, Fri 24, 7.30pm. £

CLASSICAL

Richard Morrison

MORE FROM THE FORTIES: Simon Rattle conducts an epic programme with the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra as part of the Forties Festival. Shostakovich's Symphony No 8, a craggy mountain of a symphony, is performed with the Four Sea Interludes from Britten's *Peter Grimes* and Schoenberg's Piano Concerto (Tues, Thurs) with Alfred Brendel, or with Szymanowski's First Violin Concerto (Wed) with Thomas Zehetmair. In many ways this Forties Festival is turning out to be a celebration of the old guard — of "traditional" orchestral music's last hurrah before the avant-garde took centre-stage. Birmingham £ (0121-212 3333), Tues 21, Wed 22, 7.30pm; Festival Hall, South Bank, London SE1 £ (0171-928 8800), Thurs 23, 7.30pm.

BARTONE WEEK: If opera has its equivalent of matinee-idols, they are the tall, dark baritones currently dominating the scene. Two of the most celebrated call at the Wigmore this week. Dmitri Hvorostovsky returns to the Russian song repertoire that he sings so well on Monday; while Thomas Hampson, more unexpectedly, sings Grieg and Butterworth (*A Shropshire Lad*) as well as Mahler's *Kindertotenlieder* on Friday. Wigmore Hall, Wigmore St, London W1 (0171-935 2141), Mon 20, Fri 24, 7.30pm. £

GALLERIES

Richard Cork

SPANISH STILL LIFE: At the end of the 16th century, still life suddenly became a legitimate subject in European art. No longer subordinate to a scene from the bible or mythology, even the humblest cluster of fruit and flowers was now able to move centre-stage. The results, especially in Spain, provide the National Gallery with a spellbinding show. Painters as little-known as Juan Sánchez Cotán produced masterpieces of intense observation, pitching cabbages and melons against a dramatic expanse of blackness. But other Spanish artists devoted their whole careers to still-life painting alone, often choosing to fill their work with symbols of mortality. Even Goya depicted a dead turkey or sides of meat with a brutal honesty which still has the power to unsettle. National Gallery, Trafalgar Square, London WC2 (0171-839 3321), until May 21. £

RITA DONAGH: The troubles in Northern Ireland dominate the past 20 years of Rita Donagh's work. Her retrospective at Camden Arts Centre reveals a consistent urge to meditate on the Irish tragedy. Often incorporating news photographs in her carefully painted canvases, Donagh produces quiet yet heartfelt elegies. Corpses appear, covered by the evening papers or embroidered quilts. Rain and clouds reinforce the melancholy. Now that a ceasefire has been achieved, her art acts as a timely reminder of the suffering which may be approaching its end. Camden Arts Centre, Arkwright Road, London NW3 (0171-435 2643), until Mar 26.

MUSEUMS

John Russell Taylor

POUSSIN — WORKS ON PAPER: Since January it has really been Poussin's season in London, with innumerable more specialised shows grouped around the main event at the Royal Academy. The Dulwich Picture Gallery, which itself owns major Poussin paintings, has put together a selection of 65 drawings borrowed from the Royal Collection at Windsor. These demonstrate the brilliance of Poussin's first thoughts in terms of intricate composition and sparkling use of ink and wash. A number of later drawings, long thought to be by assistants, are here reattributed to the master himself, on the basis of recent re-examination and comparison with autograph works. Dulwich Picture Gallery, College Road, Dulwich SE21 (0181-693 5254), Tues-Fri, 10am-5pm; Sat, 11am-5pm; Sun, 2-5pm; until Apr 30. Gallery admission £2, concessions £1, free Fridays.

OPEN HOUSE: Since Jim Ede's house in Cambridge was given to the University in 1966, an exhibition space has been added and three times extended. Ede was always anxious Kettle's Yard should not be a museum in the conventional sense, but it has become a monument to his taste and his friendships with artists, as well as his long championship of Gaudier-Brzeska. To mark the centenary of his birth, the Ede collection from the house has been redisplayed in the gallery, while the house has been temporarily transformed with invited works by David Nash, Michael Craig-Martin, Richard Deacon, Leonard McComb and Catherine Yass. Kettle's Yard, Castle Street, Cambridge (01223 352124), Tues-Sat and Easter Monday, 12.30-5.30pm; Sun, 2-5.30pm; extended until May 8.

National Week of Science, Engineering and Technology: Something for everyone with more than 3,000 events at hundreds of locations across the country. Programmes available from local libraries and museums. For more information call 0171-973 3500.

LONDON

National BAYSday: Make model dinosaurs, handle reptiles and meet British astronaut Helen Sharman. (BAYS: British Association Youth Section). Imperial College and Science Museum, South Kensington (0171-973 3500). Today, 10am-4pm. Adults £6.50, children £5. £



Astronaut Helen Sharman

1995 Victory Festival: The newly opened London at War is a major exhibition with recreations of wartime cinema, BBC studios, and a Lyons Corner House. Find your way through the blackout section, and see the utility furniture fashions. Imperial War Museum, Lambeth Road, SE1 (0171-416 5310). Daily 10am-6pm. Adults £3.90, children £1.95. £

CHESHIRE

The Nature of Tyranny: More than 1,000 people aged eight to 18 are taking part in this celebration of the visual arts, music and drama using classic texts from Richard III to *Medea* and the War Poets as a springboard. There are different performances every night. Manchester Contact Theatre, Oxford Road, Manchester (0161-274 4400). Mon-next Sat, 7.30pm. £2. £

SCOTLAND

Detecting Science: Become a super-sleuth, spot the forger, make an identikit, crack the code and point a finger at the suspect. Get details of the crime from the incident room at SATRO (Science and Technology Regional Organisation), Marischal College, Broad Street, Aberdeen (01224 273161). Today to Sat 25, 10am-4pm. Free. Also, a series of science talks aimed at the family. Satrosphere, 19 Justice Mill Lane, Aberdeen (01224 213332). Tues-Fri, 7pm. Adults £3, children £1.50. £

Grandpa's Winter Tale: Storytelling, audience participation and surprises with all the puppet animals and birds that make up Grandpa's world. Paisley Arts Centre, New Street, Paisley (0141-887 1010). Today, 1pm. Adults £1.75, children £1. Age 5 and over. £

SURREY

Beauty and the Beast: Adonais Ballet Company presents a magical ballet based on the classic version of the fairy-tale. Ashcroft Theatre, Park Lane, Croydon (0181-688 9291). Tomorrow, 4pm. Tickets: adults from £7.50, children £5, family ticket (2 adults, 2 children) £23. £

TYNE AND WEAR

Science Sleepover: How do you fancy spending the night sleeping among the exhibits? Advance booking essential. Newcastle Discovery, Blandford Square, Newcastle upon Tyne (0191-261 9728). Fri, 6.30pm. Admission free. Age 12-15 years.

WALES

Hands On, Teeth In: Learn to love your dentist, and find out about your teeth. Techniquet, Welsh Industrial and Maritime Museum, 72 Bute Street, Cardiff (01222 460211). Today, tomorrow, 10am-5.30pm. Adults £3.50, children £1.75, family ticket (2 adults, 2 children) £8.50. £

YORKSHIRE

Travelling with Tubas: More than "oompah, oompah", with all sorts of instruments from didgeridoos to conch shells and Viking horns. Under the Clock Tower, Town Hall, Wood Street, Wakefield (01924 295121). Tomorrow, 11am. Also at Merlins Theatre, 2 Meadow Bank Road, Sheffield (0114-255 1638). Tomorrow, 3pm. Tickets: adults £3, children £1.50, family £7.

HEATHER ALSTON

Ruth Gledhill meets the Primates at the church of St Martin-in-the-Fields, London



BESIDES being the highest group of mammals, comprising humans, apes and monkeys, Primates are the chief prelates of the worldwide Anglican Communion. There are 36 Primates, representing 70 million Anglicans in more than 160 countries. The chief Primate, *Primate Inter Pares* or "first among equals", is the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr George Carey, who is Primate of all England.

I took advantage of the rare opportunity to see them all exhibited in one place, behind the huge Corinthian columns of St Martin-in-the-Fields in Trafalgar Square, where they assembled last Sunday for a public Sung Eucharist. They were in England for a week-long meeting at Windsor, Berkshire, for retreat, Bible study and to review the critical issues facing the Anglican church worldwide. St Martin, where clergy during the previous week's intense preparations referred to themselves as "the reptiles" to differentiate them from the Primates, is famous because of its ground-breaking work with homeless people.

Because the service, taking place exactly one year after the ordination of the first women priests in the Church of England, was being broadcast live on BBC Television, we were asked to turn up early for a rehearsal, when Mark Stringer, St Martin's Master of Music, in bright red cassock, warned us up from the pulpit. After our first, doleful attempt at the Latin chant *Laudate Omnes Gentes*, to which the Primates were to process into the church, Mr Stringer reminded us that our singing was supposed to be "joyful".

We had an informal greeting from Dr Carey, the celebrant, and went on to sing the traditional hymn *Angels' fundamental*. Christ is made the sure foundation, before our confession. "Brothers and sisters, to prepare ourselves to celebrate this Eucha-



The world's Primates, wearing copes and mitres, assemble in the Trafalgar Square sunshine

rist, let us admit to God the sin which always confronts us," the Archbishop said, proceeding then to grant us absolution. "The Lord defend you from all trouble and keep you from all evil," he said.

The sacramental silence in the church after the gospel and the choir's motet, *Salvator Mundi*, as we waited for Archbishop Desmond Tutu of Cape Town to ascend the pulpit and preach was awe-inspiring.

In a time of transition and change when many familiar landmarks have disappeared, people hankered after unambiguous answers, he said. "We appear to be scared of diversity in ethnicity, in religious faiths, in political and ideological points of view," he said. "There is a longing for the homogenous and an allergy against the different, the other." He urged us "to celebrate life that can be lived by rote. Let's luxuriate in its complexities, in its bewildering ambiguities, excited by the thrill of working out things for ourselves. Let us celebrate our diversity by opposing the new xenophobia that is abroad, knocking down the walls that would keep the stranger out."

Our prayers were in Arabic, French, English and Japanese. We ended with what Dr Carey described as "that wonderful hymn", *Guide Me, O thou great Redeemer*. "Christ gave you grace to grow in holiness and deny yourselves. Take up your cross and follow Him," Dr Carey said at the finish.

After the service, to the delight and astonishment of passing tourists on foot and in London's open-top buses, the Primates, wearing a regalia of copes and mitres, colourful in the spring sunshine, were led into Trafalgar Square to join the lions for a photocall.

St Martin-in-the-Fields, Trafalgar Square, London WC2N 4J (0171-930 0089).

VICAR: Canon Geoffrey Brown

ARCHITECTURE: Distinctive London landmark. The first church on the site was built in the Middle Ages. Rebuilt in 1726 by James Gibbs, and further altered in the 19th century, it has inspired architects worldwide. ****

SERMON: Archbishop Tutu began with a joke: "I hope you won't feel like the little girl who

asked her priest father, 'Daddy, why do you always pray before you preach a sermon?' Daddy replied: 'I'm asking God to help me preach a good sermon.' And the little darling shot back: 'And why doesn't he?'" ****

MUSIC: Choir and choral scholars of St Martin gave superb renditions of both traditional and modern church music. We also heard lively African hymns from the Swahili Furaha (Joy) Choir. ****

LITURGY: Variations on the church's 1980 *Alternative Service Book*. ****

AFTER-SERVICE CARE: Tea and coffee after morning and evening services. Regular lunchtime and evening concerts. Restaurant and bookshop downstairs, frequent art exhibitions in the crypt with London Brass Rubbing Centre. Social Care Unit has active mission to the homeless. ****

SPIRITUAL HIGH: Chance to walk, talk and pray with the Primates. ****

* stars are awarded to a maximum of five.

COVER STORY

Continued from page 1

people seem to exist outside the definitions. Or they would if there were any definitions left to exist outside, because there is no official definition of middle age.

Old age and youth are easily defined: at 18 you're an adult, at 65 pensionable, at 75 you'll automatically be carried off to the geriatric wing if something goes wrong with you. But no insurance company, nor any employment agency could tell me what middle age is. I could hear the shrug of their shoulders over the phone, and their invariable answer, translated, was always the same: middle age is what happens to other people.

Pushed, Britain's biggest insurance company, the Prudential, refused to acknowledge the concept. "We don't use it in our literature any more," a spokeswoman said. "We use the term mid-life."

This sounds more mathematical than anything else, but the way the Pru uses the term assumes an average age in three figures: mid-life for them starts at 45 and lasts for another 20 years.

Mathematically, I suppose, middle age is 36 for men and 38 for women, but that would make Keith Chegwin and Jonathan Ross middle-aged, which can't be right. The dictionary defines the term as "the period between youth and old age" and says it has been in use since the 17th century — a period when the average lifespan was in the high 40s and the mathematical middle age that of most of those who left me last Friday to go to the party.

The nearest I can get to a useful definition is a medical

one from Archie Young, the Professor of Geriatric Medicine at the Royal Free Hospital in north London. To be honest, Professor Young says, the rot for most things has already set in for me. "Things like muscle strength are decreasing by the mid-40s. Or that's the average, at least: it covers a range from 25 to 55." My muscles might have been winding down for 15 years already, then.

We talk about some more organs. Why, for instance, and to pluck a phenomenon entirely at random, has my hangover changed in the past five years? Once I could have a few drinks from time to time and know that the worst that would happen would be a thick head when I woke up. Now I wake feeling sort of OK, and then, at around midday, feel I'm about to die — and because the wakeful gap between drinking and hangover is so long I don't associate one with the other and really think I am going to die?

But perhaps middle age is knowing that dying is always a chance.

Professor Young tells me that my kidneys and my liver are probably getting weaker, and that my muscles are too, and we agree that, medically at least, I'm middle-aged. But then, what do doctors know? It is a commonplace belief that man is at his sexual peak at 18, so if the state is defined by the first instance of decrepitude, it would make any randy 19-year-old ready for the comfy slippers and the pension plan.

Certainly when my father was being fatherly on the beach he looked like a man who knew he was middle-aged: looking back at the movie, even he sees a middle-aged man there. He's revised his definitions though in a way which makes them even more slippery than my own defensive position on the matter, for although he agrees that the man in the film looks middle-aged, he says that he didn't begin to feel middle-aged until he was in his mid 50s and his sons started getting married. My father isn't unique, though: something has happened to allow all of us to shift around our age groups, to slip into middle age and then slip out of it again for a while.

Perhaps it's that the hierarchy of age has changed. Once maturity, seriousness, the straight-faced gravitas of middle age, was something to be striven for. Youth and young adulthood was a period of effective disenfranchisement, a time of apprenticeship and indenturedness to those who had the knowledge, the power, the responsibility. It made sense for any 25-year-old to want to behave like the 45-year-old, to dress like him, to



speak like him, to swap the Woodbines for a pipe. Middle age, then, came at the period when the immitation of middle age started to look convincing — at around 35 or so.

But I was born into an age when youth culture was everything, when the youthful got whatever was worth having. It was the young who had the money, the laughs, the power. The corollary was that 30 or 35 or 40 was death. And then we got to those ages and found that we didn't die after all. We just worried about dying.

But there were other changes as well. Twenty years ago the generational strata kept to themselves. When I was 20 the only people I knew were 20 and neither 16-year-olds nor 25-year-olds came to my parties, nor I theirs. But at the last party I threw there were a couple of 18-year-olds at one end of the range and a few 60-year-olds at the other, and neither seemed to think it odd that they or the others were there.

Perhaps that's because some of the other generational definers have gone. First it was clothes. When my parents were growing up there was no such thing as teenage clothing or styles peculiar to the young: there were children's clothes and grown-up clothes, and those who wore the latter had, sartorially at least, already started drifting towards middle age.

The teddy boys brought with them the idea of a

uniform strictly for the young and the various groups of the 1960s — mods, rockers, skinheads, hippies — expanded on it. But then it all started getting a little confusing. Certainly when I was wearing loon pants and tie-die T-shirts there were few men of my current age aping me, because 40-year-olds still wore a white shirt and a dark suit to work. Now, though, most of those divisions are gone. True, I would have looked pretty stupid in the purposeful raggedness of grunge rather than the accidental raggedness I usually affect, and I couldn't quite bring myself to dress in flares when they made a brief reappearance a couple of years ago. On the other hand, I buy most of my clothes sharing a communal changing-room with men 20 years younger or older than me. Stranger still is that while I'll often wear a suit and tie out of preference, my father — a man whose first pink shirt I can still remember — is invariably kitted out in the leisure-jacket style that is the hall-mark of the modern pensioner.

It's not true that there are no sartorial boundaries to distinguish the young from the old, but they have become as fuzzy as any other distinction between the two groups seem to be.

Or take music. The music I listened to as a teenager was almost nothing like that which my parents liked: everything changed in the 1950s and then again in the 1960s. They had be-bop and big bands. I had the Beatles. But while the musical continuum was interrupted every decade or so for the first half of the century, since I started buying Golden Guinea albums popular music has stayed much the same.

True, there has been punk and hip-hop and a dozen other genres which I happily slept through and affect not to understand — as if three guys beating hell out of a synthesiser takes any understanding — but rather more connects the culture of Whiffled with that of the Dave Clark Five than holds together Dave Clark and Mario Lanza.

The stock-holding, country-house dwelling quinquagenarians of 1960s and 1970s rock are still doing as good business now as they were then, and not merely among those who have grown up with them. Is Jagger middle-aged? Or Clapton? Or McCartney? Well, yes, McCartney's always been middle-aged, but if Lennon were still with us, would he be?

Yes, of course, but only because if we have to have a middle age then being 50 must be it, regardless of how loud you like to play your music.

The truth is that the divisions between ages have gone the way of the divisions between classes and you could place a man in one or another by his job, his aspirations, his clothes, his accent. Now there is a large, but by no means dominant, underclass, a working-class rump, and everyone else has a job and a roof over their head and is, by the new definition, middle class.

Just as the ABCI class definitions of the economists tell only half the social story,

Cover and feature photographs of John Diamond by MARK HARRISON



so the chronological ages of the population describe only one small aspect of what we are. There are the obviously young and the undeniably old, and everyone else is whatever they want to be. Sure, rich and tubby old geezers in baggy rock-star suits escorting women whose legginess has nothing to do with support tights are still fairly ridiculous, but no more so than rich and tubby young geezers who use their money to play the same trick. Age has stopped being a determining factor in these things.

The editors of all our broadsheet daily and Sunday papers, for instance, are in their 40s, and some of them only just. The editor of *The Sunday Telegraph* is still in his 30s, albeit going on 50, and the boy at the *News of the World*, the biggest selling paper of them all, is in his 20s, damn him.

Once, newspaper proprietors wouldn't consider granting an editorship to anyone who hadn't reached positive middle age, but since middle age has become indefinable, that hardly works any more.

It's not that there's no such thing as middle age: by any definition I am of, or about to be of, it. What distinguishes my middle age from my father's is that I am of a group which, in the 1960s, dispensed with the old bias against the young. We are the ones who grew up proud of our youth rather than ashamed of it and, as we've got older, we've simply moved our pride up a notch. We got to being the right age, the correct age, the age which had everything going for it. Why should we give all that up?

And so we have bagged up our music and our clothes and our whole having-it-all inheritance, and we have translated it for a new age. Our market-stall design style has become Habitat, our Oxford clothes come from Paul Smith or Next. We were once young and felt pity for those who weren't: now we are middle-aged and feel the same patronising pity for the young.

We are, as we always have been, and as we used to say when I was young, where it's at.

How to recognise symptoms of the seriously middle-aged

John Diamond presents the definitive guide

ONLY you can decide whether you are middle-aged or not. If too many of these symptoms seem familiar to you, though, then you probably ought to give in to the inevitable and start laying in the tonic wine.

1 You start seeking out newspaper articles which suggest that jogging, squash and swimming are bad for you, and then quoting them to dangerously fit people at dinner parties. Ditto articles which show the French live for ever because they drink a bottle of claret a day.

2 Your young colleague drives to work in his new Porsche Turbo. Your first question to him has nothing to do with speed or acceleration but is, "So what's the insurance like on that then?"

3 You have thrown away the expensive, serviceable, but ten-year-old suits you were saving for the inevitable day when you would be 34in round the waist again.

4 When going on holiday you make sure you take with you aspirin, paracetamol, Andrews, Remies, two different diarrhoea remedies, a couple of sleeping pills and a large tub of Alka-Seltzer.

5 You find yourself at a party arguing the merits of the hover-mower against those of a roller-blade model.

6 At the same party you glimpse yourself in a mirror, dancing to *Virginia Plain*, and you realise you look like all those clumpy men who you once thought would have more sense than to dance at parties.

7 As a woman, you discover that your only view on fashion is that you can't understand how all those high-street retailers make a profit given that they absolutely never make any clothes in sizes for what you refer to as "real people".

8 You find yourself looking at the holiday guide in the *Radio Times* and thinking about a holiday in Britain.

11 You start telling yourself people facts about yourself that actually make you sound older than you are — that you had ration coupons, that you preferred it when the driving licence was a proper little book, that Gerry Anderson puppet shows might be cool now but that you can remember when all he did was *Twizzle and Four Feather Falls*.

12 Moving addresses to a new address book you skip the names and numbers of girl or boy friends you haven't seen for 20 years.

13 You start reporting minor officials to their supervisors and black cabs to the Public Carriage Office for imagined slights, tardy performance of their duties and minor infringements of their regulations.

14 Seeing a police checkpoint, you hope they'll stop you. You know you have your insurance, MOT and log book to hand, that your road tax is up to date, that you are stone cold sober.

15 You feel slighted if the opinion pollster in the shopping mall lets you walk by without stopping. Somehow you feel that her poll will be unbalanced without your own cool and rational observations.

16 You hear yourself addressing a policeman as "Constable".

17 You find yourself taking your pulse rate after a brisk walk with the dog.

18 As a matter of course, you pay people — builders, decorators, drain-clearers — to do things you would once have done yourself. If you are terribly rich, you start doing things yourself which you would once have paid people to do.

19 You start putting things in order and cataloguing them: family photos, videos, CDs, household documents.

20 You find yourself reading articles on middle age in national newspapers.



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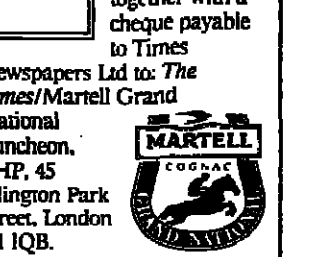
Grand National chocolates. Both restaurants have been awarded two Michelin stars. Le Manoir aux Quat Saisons,

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THEATRES

ARTS

5

Someone's been led a merry dance

In the dainty world of tights and tutus there have been some pretty amazing cancellations over the years. You may recall, for instance, the incident last season when English National Ballet dancers declined to go on stage because, my dear, it was a bit chilly. But I cannot remember such a vintage crop of no-shows as that which has afflicted the Royal Ballet's current season.

First, the flamboyant British choreographer Michael Clark (specialities: bare buttocks on stage; confessed drug dependency off stage) failed to deliver a new work in time for its much-touted December premiere at Covent Garden. To add a special frisson, he pulled out just two weeks before the scheduled premiere.

Hardly had the Covent Garden faithful recovered from this disappointment than the Royal Ballet hit them with another. The company announced that it would not be proceeding with its February revival of Kenneth MacMillan's *Prince of the Pagodas* either.

Now it has lost yet another major plank of its season. The impeccably fashionable American choreographer William Forsythe had been engaged to create a new work for Covent Garden, due for premiere next month. Last Monday, Forsythe casually informed the Royal Ballet — on the very morning that he was supposed to begin rehearsals — that he was not proposing to turn up.

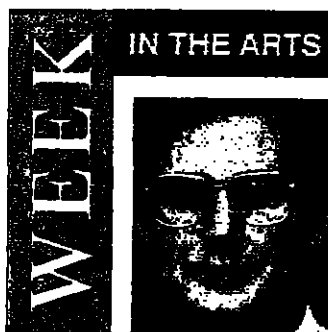
I suppose the company might have had an inkling the previous day. A senior Covent Garden manager wasted several hours at the airport waiting for our courteous friend to fly in.

Forsythe's excuse for wimping out, delivered by fax (how very Nick Leeson!), was that he can now only work with dancers in his own company, whom he has "guided intimately". To quote his own preposterous codswallop: "my in-

tervention [is] to diminish hierarchical authorship and to create a company of interdependent artists". Very generously, he suggested that the Royal Ballet could dust off one of his old ballets instead.

It does not seem to have occurred to Forsythe that the Royal Ballet is also a company of "interdependent artists", and that one of the essential matters on which they "interdepend" is that the choreographer who has been engaged to teach them a new work will actually turn up as agreed on the specified morning.

But if Forsythe's behaviour is inexplicable, the Royal Ballet's reaction seems plain spineless. Instead of giving our absent friend the public dressing-down he deserves, the Royal Ballet's Bamblike boss, Anthony Dowell, has declared himself "relieved" that he can at least stage a ten-year-old



RICHARD MORRISON

Forsythe piece, which he is "sure that audiences will appreciate". In retrospect, an article in *Covent Garden's* 1994/95 prospectus now seems all too ominous. "At the time of writing nothing is known of the intentions of either

Clark or Forsythe," the brochure says. "But whatever these prove to be, Dowell's policy is very rarely to interfere." How very considerate of him! Perhaps a little "interference" early on might have saved the Royal Ballet from a season of humiliation and disarray.

Now for the results of our Arts Poseurs of the Month awards. The judges were again very impressed with the work of Artangel, the organisation that brought you Rachel Whiteread's *House*. Its current project is another cracker: it is hiring some units in a storage warehouse in Wembley, and has asked those

Sixties left-overs, Brian Eno and Laurie Anderson, to fill them with, like, meaningful objects.

Why? Well, to the fanciful folk at Artangel (public subsidy: £100,000 a year) storage warehouses are

"charged with a kind of intimacy because they contain things that seem to want to be hidden, protected." Not a lot of people know that.

"Visitors will be taken on an intricate journey through whispering corridors of stored items, sounds and visions," Artangel promises. Gosh, I wonder if they would clear out my garden shed when they have finished.

Also a very strong contender this month (and indeed every month) is the Institute of Contemporary Arts. It has announced a series of "cross-dressing workshops" with Diane Torr — "New York's cross-dressing impresario", whatever that means. It seems, moreover, that this is the cross-dressing impresario's second visit to the ICA this season. Splendid use of an £815,000 annual Arts Council grant, girls! Keep it up.

But outright winner, by huge public demand, is English Heritage. This week it has recommended that the Government slap a Grade II listing on Centre Point, the universally loathed office-block in Charing Cross Road that has come to epitomise all that is most brutal about Sixties architecture.

English Heritage's soft-headed "experts" are also pushing for such fabulous edifices as the "West Hampstead Thameslink Station, Platform 1 Building" and the "John Lewis Warehouse, Stevenage" to be listed. The only surprise is that they have overlooked our local Tesco superstore in Neasden — surely the Taj Mahal of the North Circular Road.

Anyway, for their remarkable dedication to the preservation of modernist rubbish, the chaps at English Heritage are declared Arts Poseurs of the Month. Their prize? A daytrip to West Hampstead Thameslink Station, of course. Wear something warm, boys: the waiting room is notoriously draughty.

Thoroughly modern Euripides

THEATRE: At the
Olivier, Benedict
Nightingale finds
present-day echoes
in *Women of Troy*

Confronted with a noisome question about the alleged duty of contemporary dramatists to be political pundits, Tom Stoppard once remarked that the best play about the Vietnam War would probably turn out to have been written by Sophocles. He got the sentiment right but, as Annie Castledine's grimly impressive *Women of Troy* at the National re-emphasises, the Greek poet wrong. It was Euripides who wrote about Vietnam 20 years ago, is writing about Bosnia and Somalia now, and will doubtless be sending us front-line dispatches from other ruined nations as our murderous century blunders to its end.

There is an even greater contrast than one had expected between this revival and the three sequels to the Troy story that by odd coincidence are now to be seen at the Gate Theatre. In that tiny, cramped playhouse, Euripides's *Electra*, *Orestes* and *Iphigenia* become intimate tragicomedies, tensely evoking the calamities inflicted by whimsical gods on one family. But Castledine's 12-woman chorus looks half-lost as it meanders in its tacky greatcoats round the vast set that Iona McLeish has designed for the Olivier. This comes with steps of jagged concrete, wire mesh and corrugated iron, and is presumably meant to suggest a prison-camp improvised amid the wreckage of an apartment block; but the impression is of the world's dispossessed shivering in the void.

Euripides's story tells of the immediate aftermath of the fall of Troy. Rosemary Harris's Hecuba must watch and flinch as her daughter Cassandra and her daughter-in-law Andromache are led away, her baby

Jane Birkin (Andromache) and Rosemary Harris (Hecuba) in Annie Castledine's grimly impressive National staging of *Women of Troy*

Brandon taken off to be killed, her palace burned, and she herself given as a slave to her great enemy, Odysseus. During these disasters she confronts both Menelaus and the disgraced Helen. In Peter McNery and Janie Dee's performances a hollow, blustering Louisiana swell and a Southern belle who proves equally articulate with her honeyed tongue and her creamy legs. With Philip Whitchurch playing the Greek messenger Talthybius as a sweaty, crazy GI, Castledine has given the play an anti-American twist.

The reason presumably is that in Euripides's day Greece bestrode the

world like America now, and perhaps also that he himself was indirectly attacking that bellicose superpower, Athens, which had just slaughtered the male population of Melos. But since the Pentagon is not currently razing Ruanda, Chechnya or anywhere else, this still seems a rather dated, 1960-ish slant.

Nevertheless, several of Castledine's other attempts to update and generalise the play work pretty well: music which varies from Negro spiritual to Middle-Eastern lament; a chorus that, to judge by the names of its members, their accents and their occasional bursts of foreign lan-

guage, represents an international suffering.

Harris's Hecuba effortlessly commands both chorus and stage, but she opts too often for noble grief, too seldom for the exhaustion, helpless rage and raw intensity of pain that Kenneth McLeish's notably blunt, colloquial translation invites. She tends to give us the queen at the expense of the woman, which is not the kind of accusation you can direct at the two princesses on display, Josette Bushell-Mingo's flailing Cassandra or Jane Birkin's unaffectedly poignant Andromache. The pick of the remaining performances is Rob-

ert Pickavance's Athens, who looks a bit like a drag queen in gold netting and gilded bathing cap, but whose high, malevolent whine accurately reflects Euripides's metaphysics.

This is roughly that as flies to wanton boys are we to the gods. These inscrutable forces dispense and withdraw their favours out of liking or pique and with effects as disproportionate as the sack of Troy or, as Euripides makes clear at the beginning of the play, the impending loss of the Greek fleet. Is there a more contemporary dramatist to be heard in our theatres? No, not Sophocles, not Shakespeare, not even Beckett.

GREAT BRITISH HOPES

Rising stars in the arts firmament

CAROLINE LAVELLE

Profession: Cellist, singer and songwriter.

Age: 29

Which skill came first? The cello playing. Aged six, she opted to take it up at school in Somerset because all the violins had been given out and there was nothing else left. Eventually she grew to love the instrument so much that she studied it at the Royal College of Music under maestro Christopher Bunting.

A violin would have been easier to carry, right? "You're not kidding. The size and weight of the thing is the worst part of going on tour."

How did she end up in the pop world? She didn't want to play in an orchestra, and a friend of a friend knew Siouxsie and the Banshees... And then came session work with names such as The Fall, Boy George, Holly Johnson, The Cranberries and Alison Moyet. Now she has a single of her own, "Moorlough Shore", released on Monday, with the parent album *Spirit* to follow a week later. Both are on the N-Gram label, through WEA.

How did that come about? Ultra-fashionable producer and mixer William Orbit fell in love with her playing on a Massive Attack track and got in touch. Originally they were aiming to record Irish songs over a dance groove, but Caroline's songwriting led them astray.

Isn't "Moorlough Shore" an old Irish number though? Well, yes. But she's changed half the words and fused them with the traditional tune "Foggy Dew". It sounds great — a hipper version of Enya, if you like.

Aren't you supposed to pay your dues before getting a record deal? "I've spent a lot of time busking in tube stations and around Covent Garden. My speciality was Vivaldi played incredibly fast. And I found that if you wore outrageous clothes — little lycra numbers or whatever — you got more money. Once I got a policeman to do the Can-Can." Any more strings to her bow? Certainly. She plays in the classical trio *Electra*, along with Sonia Slany and Jocelyn Pook — they supported Nigel Kennedy on his last tour. Of whom she says: "Sometimes he brought tears to my eyes, and not just when he was hitting me over the head with his fiddle. He's unbelievably, beautifully talented, the rat bag." Heroes? "Mark Hollis of Talk Talk, and Joni Mitchell — though I suppose anyone with a brain and a heart would say that. And Jacqueline du Pré. She leaves me breathless." Are we ready for the cello as a pop instrument? "You've got to push the boundaries forward. Music isn't a petrified forest. I find it totally natural to put the cello to the forefront of the music, where other people might have a lead guitar or a saxophone. It can do a lot of different things — there's definitely a place for it in pop."

ALAN JACKSON

DANCE: Debra Craine watches the Mark Morris company launch its British tour in a shopping mall in Woking

His entertaining best: Morris and his dancers in *Going Away Party*

Genius comes in all shapes

IF Woking set out to impress with its dance festival, it could not have made a more explosive start than with the Mark Morris Dance Group. These darlings of the American dance scene found themselves in the unlikely setting of a shopping mall in Surrey on Thursday, thanks to Woking Dance Umbrella, a festival (funded by Woking Council) to mark the borough's centenary. The New Victoria Theatre provided a superb stage for the launch of the company — already favourites at the Edinburgh Festival — on its first British tour.

The first thing audiences notice about Morris's company is its normality. Off stage the 16 dancers could be teachers or truck drivers, so varied are their shapes, sizes and appearances — one is bald, one bearded, one has dreadlocks. But each one of them dances like a dream in a language infused with the joy of innocence and the profundity of experience.

In *Three Preludes*, a solo for Morris himself (to Gershwin), you can see the genesis of his choreographic style. Despite his girth and hefty build this is someone who was

born to dance, and no body in the world was going to stop him. The contrast between the inappropriate grace of his frame and the impossible grace of his kinetic fluency reveals the struggle to achieve a harmony of body and mind without recourse to rigorous aesthetic criteria: Morris doesn't point his foot, his jumps are flat-footed. Yet when he drops his head as if to stroke his own shoulder the movement is not coy, it is an ingenious, spontaneous response to the pleasure that consumes him in the act of dancing. You can almost see him in his Seaside living room as a child, prancing around to the tunes he hears on the wireless.

New Love Song Waltzes, set to Brahms, is early Morris and already we find him establishing the priorities that make him unique. The songs are about love but rather than take the subject in its narrowest male-female context, Morris opens it out to embrace his community of ten dancers. Even genders are irrelevant. The love they share is not coloured by romantic illusion either: it can be sweaty and uncomfortable, or rever-

ent and liberating. The movement is weighted, yet delivered with a freedom that belies its complexities. And, as always with Morris, the structure of the music exactly determines the shape of the movement.

Morris can entertain as well as enlighten. *Going Away Party*, here receiving its British premiere, finds his dancers performing a parodic swag and swing to the country melodies of Bob Wills and his Texas Playboys. Morris's genius is that he recognises no hierarchical distinction between high and low art. He can tap into the stylistic formality of the one as easily as the direct emotional appeal of the other.

Grand Duo ends the evening with an extraordinary change of mood. Its dark intensities spread across the stage in four movements (score: Lou Harrison), dripping with expectation. The performers are within a more enclosed individual universe, gathering strength from their community. A fierce energy eats up space in a frenzied momentum which culminates in a transcendent moment of power. Astonishing stuff.

THE SUNDAYTIMES

Martin Amis: balancing the books

"Selling out where?" he asks wearily. "You sell out by writing trash for money. People are getting a lot of money for crap. There's no fuss when Jeffrey Archer gets £3m for something. It's British prejudice about serious work..."

Martin Amis, profiled by Bryan Appleyard, in *The Magazine* — *The Sunday Times* tomorrow

Lewis Carroll inspires György Ligeti at the Royal Academy of Music

Into wonderland

György Ligeti is this year's chosen composer for the Royal Academy of Music's annual festival. In the first concert, given by the RAM Sinfonia under the able direction of Stephen Barlow, we were denied the exquisitely fashioned, microscopic tendrils and dense textures of *Ramifications* (1968-9). In its place, played by a finely drilled wind quintet, were the Ten Pieces of quinet, miniatures inspired by 1968, miniatures inspired by the whimsical fantasy of Lewis Carroll that take surprising

turns from movement to movement.

Extremes of gesture and texture characterise the Cello Concerto (1966). Graphic music, this, and heavily demanding of its soloist both in the nakedness and poise of its slowly crescendoing first movement and in the scampering pyrotechnics of the second (and last). Alasdair Strange was the marvellous

cellist, and the orchestra equally relished the complex demands of sonority and agility made of them.

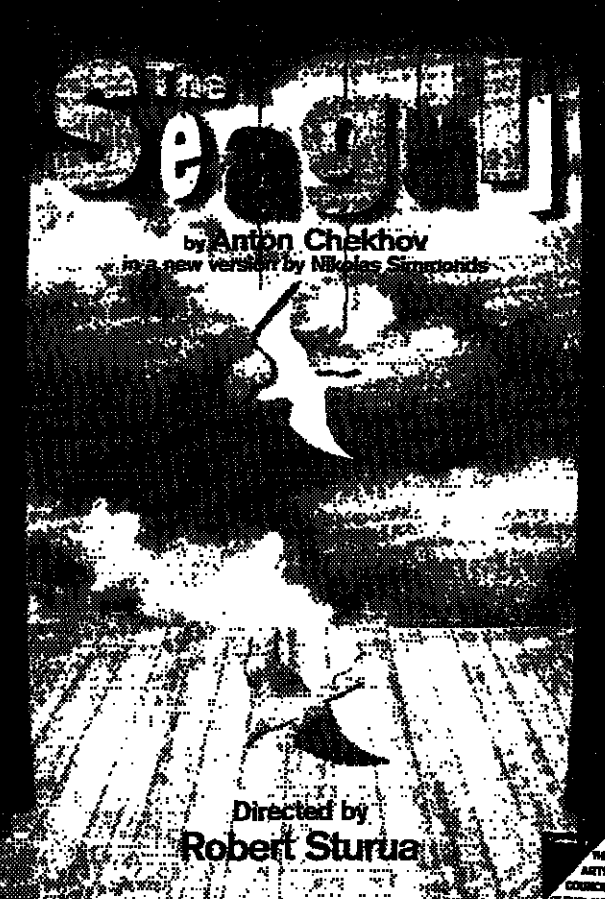
Cecile Lecken and Simon Fullard, taking responsibility for the solo flute and oboe parts in the Double Concerto (1972), also covered themselves in glory in this incandescent two-movement study that explores a crowded world of textures and colours, along

with another of Ligeti's gifts, conciseness.

That is something Rohan Kriwaczek, a student composer whose orchestral work, *Steppenwolf*, preceded the Double Concerto, has yet to learn. If this inflated, rather grandiosely grim piece of neo-Shostakovich demonstrates a wholly admirable will power, it does not reveal a composer who has yet found something of his own to say or his own way in which to say it.

STEPHEN PETTIT

Thelma Holt in association with Theatre Royal Plymouth presents
Deborah Findlay Aden Gillett
Michael Sheen Kate Beckinsale

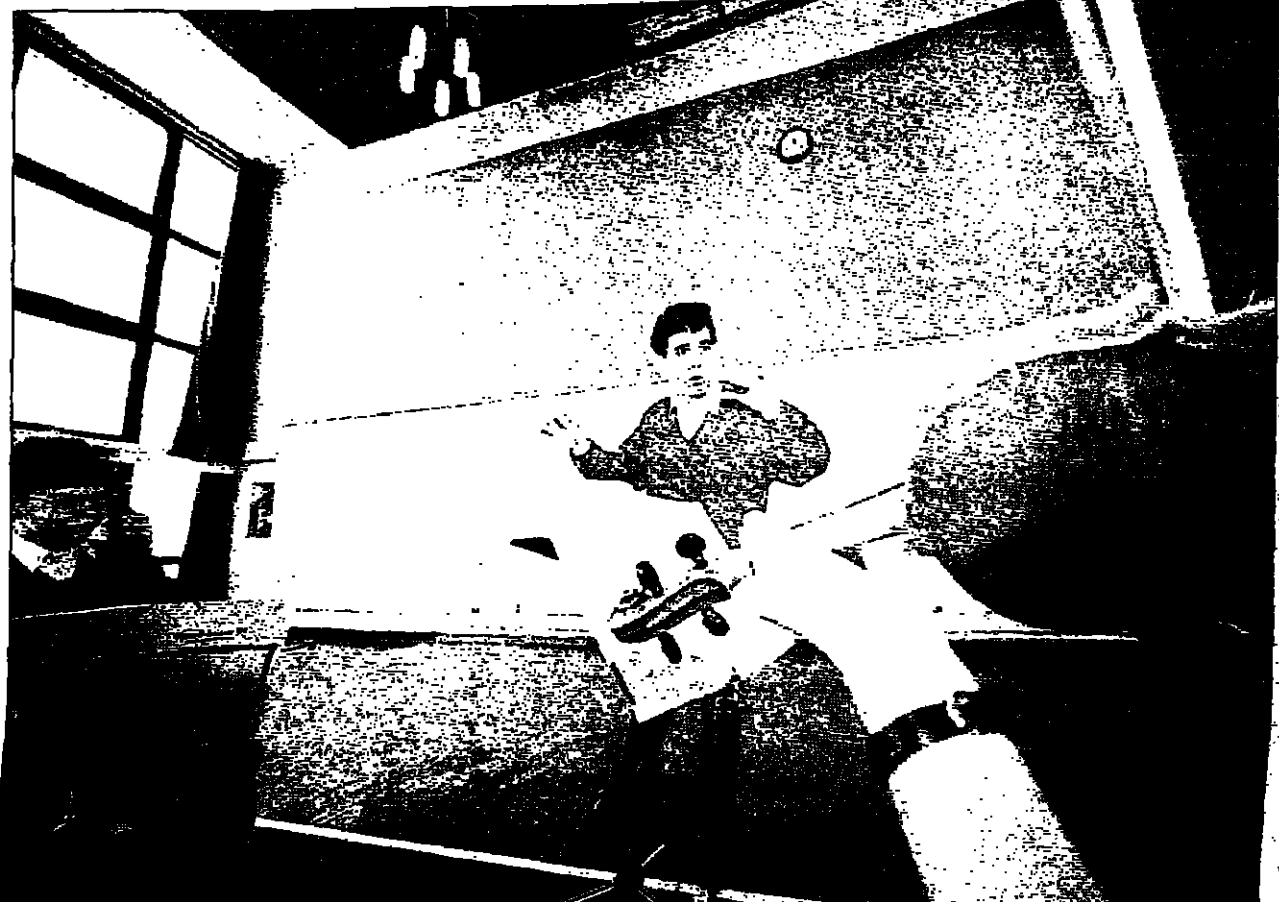


Directed by Robert Sturua
29 Mar-1 Apr PLYMOUTH, Theatre Royal 01752 267222
3-8 Apr NEWCASTLE, Theatre Royal 0191 232 2061
10-15 Apr BATH, Theatre Royal 01225 448844
24-29 Apr GUILDFORD, Yvonne Arnaud 01483 440000
2-6 May HULL, New Theatre 01482 226655
9-13 May CANTERBURY, Marlboro Theatre 01227 787787
16-20 May MALVERN, Festival Theatre 01683 892277

Tuning up for growing up

JULIAN HERBERT

In the first of a new weekly series on youth in the arts, Hilary Finch lends an ear to the strains of a county orchestra



Ian Hooker: "Give them easier Tchaikovsky or Rossini pieces, and the players will mutiny," the conductor says

These include the newest of the new. As the orchestra grows more confident, it is starting to commission: the Bucks County Youth Orchestra and composer, Colin Cowles, wrote a 12-minute symphonic poem for it called *The Realm of the Swan*, and the orchestra took it on tour to Hungary.

Hooker steadily identifies the areas which need most concentrated work. A team of peripatetic teachers and guest principals from professional bands such as the Orchestra of St John's Smith Square then take over for rigorous sectional rehearsals.

Hooker himself presides over full rehearsals and works with a sense of discipline and flair that would be the envy of any professional orchestra. Orchestral concerts and tours are matched by regular choral concerts, often large-scale events for charity, such as the recent *Messiahs*, Verdi's *Requiem* and *Carmina Burana* at the Albert Hall, or in aid of the British Council for Prevention of Blindness. An 800-strong choir is amassed from local schools and choral societies. "It brings the community together at a time when there are so many tendencies to live and work in isolated units — that's what I love about it," Hooker says.

He points out that none of this would be possible without the unusually active support of his county's music adviser, Helen Blakeman, and the chief education officer, Stephen Sharp — and, indeed, the county council itself "without which the orchestra would simply not survive in its present state".

Few members of the BCYO go on to become professional musicians — although past players have ended up as flautists at the Royal Opera and trumpeters at the Scottish Chamber Orchestra. But, for Hooker, this is not the point. "The orchestra offers an experience — beyond the self-consciousness of individual performance — which is impossible to gain any other way."

"It's about young people transcending their own abilities and the expectations of their parents and teachers. And it is the music itself which awakens those responses and makes those demands..."

HOW TO JOIN THE BAND

- Bucks County Youth Orchestra can be contacted at the Education Department, Fourth Floor, County Hall, Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire HP20 1UZ (01296 382439).
- Entrance is by audition. The fees are about £200 a year, which includes all courses and full costs of tours abroad.
- Upcoming concerts: The BCYO will play a programme of Copland, Rachmaninov and Bartók on April 11 at 7.45pm at the Turner Sims Concert Hall, University of Southampton (01703 61717) and on April 12 at the Swan Theatre, High Wycombe (0494 512000). The concert will be broadcast on BBC Three Counties Radio, 103.8FM, on April 23 at 2pm.

High technology meets art as the information superhighway comes to the West End this month

Britain's first play about the information superhighway is in the West End this month, and will be made available simultaneously on computers worldwide.

Caught in the Net, a one-man-show written and performed by Dan O'Brien, uses comedy and a love story to explain the intricacies of the Internet, the on-line information network.

Audiences will be able to follow the show at the same time as it is performed on stage at the Arts Theatre, since its text and visual effects will be relayed to their computer screens via the Internet.

O'Brien, an associate editor of the influential information-technology magazine *Wired*, hopes that the play will appeal to both "techno-geeks" or computer buffs and those who understand nothing about the Internet or computing.

"The Internet can appear to be a dull place to people who don't understand the culture attached to it. I want to

Net pleasures in the theatre

talk about the culture in order to help people understand the technology," he says.

To get his message across O'Brien is enlisting the help of a mountain of high-technology props on stage. A giant computer screen at the back of the set will run a software programme displaying video footage, high-resolution presentation graphics, shots of text on the Internet and live shots of the show's technical crew relayed from a closed-circuit television system.

In addition to relaying the show on the Internet with what is known in computer parlance as an MOO (a

FUTURE VISIONS

multi-user object-oriented space), O'Brien will also publish samples of the play on the web pages of the Internet, a kind of on-line directory of services.

The play has been sponsored and the equipment supplied by the information-technology companies Toshiba, Pipex and FTP, which are all keen to familiarise the public with the Internet and to popularise the use of their products.

"*Caught in the Net* is a love story based on my own experiences when I was 12 or 13 and was a computer hacker. It's all about my attempts to

win the love of a girl called Alison by impressing her with my command of technology," O'Brien says.

As part of the plot O'Brien explains how to set up and operate a pirate television station and how to build an atomic bomb using information he gleaned from the Internet.

The play also explores the issue of censorship on the Internet and the difficulties of applying to the world of computer technology existing legislation designed to cover the book and magazine-publishing industries.

"By the end of the play, most people will probably find that they have a feel for what the Internet is about and at least have enough information to bluff their way through a 'Net' conversation at a dinner party," O'Brien says.

ALEXANDRA FREAN

● Caught in the Net is at the Arts Theatre, Great Newport Street, London WC2 0JF, 836 3334, tomorrow and on March 26 and April 12.

WEST END ENTERTAINMENT

THEATRE GUIDE

- **ANYT' MISBEHAVIN'** (15): Enkaran's song 'I dance show me' and the hits of Sam Walter. Non-stop energy on test. Lyric, Shallosbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5045). Mon-Sat, 8pm; mat. Thurs, 3pm and Sat, 5pm.
- **BROKEN GLASS** (15): Arthur Miller's masterly drama, distilling his lifelong concern with personal responsibility. David Thacker's production, with Henry Goodman and Margot Leicester superb as the central Jewish couple. Outlets of York's, St Martin's Lane, WC2 (0171-836 5122). Mon-Sat, 7.45pm; mat. Wed and Sat, 3pm.
- **BURNING BLUE** (15): Strong and moving play by former light poet D.M.W. Greer about friendship, doomed gay love and a witch hunt in the US Navy. John T. Haddock directs. Kings Head, Upper Street, N1 (0171-226 1918). Tue-Sat, 8pm; mat. Sat and Sun, 3.30pm.
- **CELL MATES** (15): Rick Mayall and now Simon Ward play *Prisoners* and *State*, in Simon Ward's disappointing play. Mayall has some good moments. Albany, St Martin's Lane, WC2 (0171-365 1730). Mon-Sat, 8pm; mat. Wed, 3pm and Sat, 5pm.
- **CONVERSATIONS WITH MY FATHER** (15): Judd Hirsch re-creates his Tony Award-winning performance in Herb Gardner's play, covering 40 years of Jewish experience in New York. When at all told, it's a fairly good stuff. Old Vic, Waterloo Road, SE1 (0171-925 7676). Mon-Sat, 7.45pm; mat. Wed and Sat, 2.30pm.
- **DESIGN FOR LIVING** (15): Rachel Weiss, Rachel Weiss and Marcus D'Amico in Coward's *Design for Living*. Sean Mathias's award-winning, with even more subtle and gentle than at the Donmar. Gielgud, Shallosbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5059). Mon-Sat, 8pm; mat. Thurs, 3pm and Sat, 4pm.
- **ECLIPSE** (15): Kate Chuteley directs Tamara Day's play about the lives and loves (mostly lesbian) of four misanthropic women on a remote island of America's North Sea coast. Drill Hall, Chertsey Street, WC1 (0171-637 6270). Tue-Sat, 8pm; mat. Wed 25.
- **FEVER PITCH** (15): The one-man show adapted from Nick Hornby's best-selling about a lifelong obsession with Arsenal FC. Stephen North takes us through 45 minutes each way. The Grand New Street, WC2 (0171-836 2132). Mon-Fri, 8pm; Sat, 6.15 and 8.30pm.
- **QUICK SHOW** (15): Director Robert Redford narrates a TV scandal of the late 1960s. Fine performances (John Turturro, Ralph Fiennes, Paul Scofield), but not enough bite, or relevance. Barbican (0171-638 8891) Sat (0171-727 4043) MGM Chelsea (0171-362 5050) Odette (0171-752 3332) (01426 914668) Kensington (01426 914668) Swiss Cottage (01426 914668) UCI Whiteleys (0171-752 3332) Warner (0171-437 4343).
- **LA REINE MARGOT** (15): Bloody, brooding, occasionally impressive French history lesson, with Isabelle Adjani and Daniel Auteuil. Curzon Phoenix (0171-389 1721) MGM Penton Street (0171-930 0031) UCI Whiteleys (0171-752 3332) Warner (0171-437 4343).
- **THE RIVER WALK** (15): Glimpses of a family and their lives, with Meryl Streep and Kevin Bacon. Director, Curtis Hanson. MGM Penton Street (0171-930 0031) UCI Whiteleys (0171-752 3332) Warner (0171-437 4343).
- **RUDDYARD KIPPLER'S THE JUNGLE BOOK** (15): Muddled live-action adventures of a young boy raised by a pack of monkeys. With Jason Scott Lee, Lene Hardy, Cary Elwes. Director, Stephen Sommers. MGM Chelsea (0171-362 5050) Odette (0171-752 3332) Kensington (01426 914668) Swiss Cottage (01426 914668) UCI Whiteleys (0171-752 3332) Warner (0171-437 4343).
- **SHALLOW GRAVE** (15): Wickedly enjoyable comedy-drama about three Edinburgh chums and a corpse loaded with money. Danny Boyle directs. Nany For, Christopher Eccleston and Ewan McGregor. MGM Haymarket (0171-439 1527) Warner (0171-437 4343).
- **THE SWANSONS** (15): How to survive long decades in prison. Engrossing drama with Tim Robbins and Morgan Freeman. MGM Chelsea (0171-362 5050) Odette (0171-752 3332) Kensington (01426 914668) Swiss Cottage (01426 914668) UCI Whiteleys (0171-752 3332) Warner (0171-437 4343).
- **NEEL** (15): Doctor Liam Neeson returns to his roots as a doctor in a remote village. Well acted, well meant, but glum. Director, Michael Apted. MGM Chelsea (0171-362 5050) Odette (0171-752 3332) Kensington (01426 914668) Swiss Cottage (01426 914668) UCI Whiteleys (0171-752 3332) Warner (0171-437 4343).
- **ONLY YOU** (15): Maresa Tormi, a young woman of her dreams through Italy. Lazy blend of comedy, romance and love. With Robert Downey Jr. MGM Chelsea (0171-362 5050) Odette (0171-752 3332) Kensington (01426 914668) Swiss Cottage (01426 914668) UCI Whiteleys (0171-752 3332) Warner (0171-437 4343).
- **PREY-A-PORTER** (15): Surprisingly lively satire on the fashion world from Robert Altman. With Kim Basinger, Madonna, Lili Fini Zanuck. MGM Chelsea (0171-362 5050) Odette (0171-752 3332) Kensington (01426 914668) Swiss Cottage (01426 914668) UCI Whiteleys (0171-752 3332) Warner (0171-437 4343).
- **LOVE A MAN IN UNIFORM** (15): Cop show actor loses grip on reality. Striking Canadian film from director David Wellington, with Tom McCamus. Metro (0171-437 0757).

CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and the provinces. Indicated with the symbol (*) on release across the country

- **EDEN VALLEY** (15): A father, a son, and a woman. Fine slow slice of life from north-east England. In the Amber Films collection. ICA Cinemas (0171-930 3647).
- **IMMORTAL BELOVED** (15): Gary Oldman as a Shakespearean, but the film sits on its hands and with Jason Robards and Isabelle Rossellini, writer-director, Bernard Ross. Empire (0171-434 0031) MGM Fulham Road (0171-570 2636) UCI Whiteleys (0171-752 3332) Warner (0171-437 4343).
- **LA (U)**: Albert Einstein steers his nose towards romance with an ordinary Joe. Overly cute comedy. With Ryan, Tim Robbins and Walter Matthau. Director, Fred Schepisi. Empire (0171-434 0031) MGM Fulham Road (0171-570 2636) UCI Whiteleys (0171-752 3332) Warner (0171-437 4343).
- **LITTLE WOMEN** (U): See Critics' Choice, page 2.
- **PIRIST** (15): See Critics' Choice, page 2.
- **CURRENT**
- **AMATEUR** (15): Amnesiac photographer loses his past with a former nun's help. Quirky, touching, pseudo-drama from Hal Hartley, with Martin Donovan and Isabelle Huppert. MGM Penton Street (0171-930 0031).
- **ANDRE**: Adventures of an orphaned soul. Well-packaged family film with Keith Carradine, Tina Turner and a score-stealing sea lion. MGM Fulham Road (0171-570 2636) UCI Whiteleys (0171-752 3332) Warner (0171-437 4343).
- **BLACK BEAUTY**: Unsettling version of the children's classic, featuring Sean Bean and David Thewlis. Director, Caroline Thompson. MGM Fulham Road (0171-570 2636) UCI Whiteleys (0171-752 3332) Warner (0171-437 4343).
- **DISCLOSURE** (15): Michael Douglas says no to Demi Moore. Superbly enjoyable version of Michael Crichton's sexual harassment novel. Director, Barry Levinson. Barbican (0171-638 8891) MGM Fulham Road (0171-570 2636) UCI Whiteleys (0171-752 3332) Warner (0171-437 4343).
- **LOVE A MAN IN UNIFORM** (15): Cop show actor loses grip on reality. Striking Canadian film from director David Wellington, with Tom McCamus. Metro (0171-437 0757).

What do the actors in Arthur Miller's *A View From the Bridge* think about the play? Go along and ask them yourself

The View you must not miss

THE THEATRE CLUB

Theatre. Directed by David Thacker — who also directed *Broken Glass* — the play attracted rave reviews during its seasons at the Bristol Old Vic and Birmingham Repertory Theatre, and stars Bernard Hill, giving what has been described as "an inspired" performance as Eddie Carbone, a New York longshoreman obsessed by his love for his beautiful niece, Charlotte Cornwell, playing his wife, and Alan MacNaughton as the lawyer/narrator are joined by Joseph Fiennes, Emer McCourt and Ivan Kaye.

This will undoubtedly be one of the theatrical events of the year, and Theatre Club members have the opportunity not only to be part of the celebrity audience for the press night on April 7, but also to join the cast afterwards for the first-night party. Tickets are £22.50. To book, telephone 0171-930 8800, quoting your Theatre Club number



Bernard Hill and Charlotte Cornwell in a powerful scene from *A View From the Bridge* — see first item

This week's specials

- LONDON**
Sadler's Wells
March 21-22
● **DOYLEY CARTE OPERA** present two operettas directed by Martin Duncan. The first is Johann Strauss's *Die Fledermaus* (March 21) and the second Gilbert and Sullivan's *HMS Pinafore* (March 22). Theatre Club members can buy tickets to either performance for £15 (normally £22.50). Tel 0171-713 6000.
- SHEFFIELD**
Lyceum Theatre
March 27-28
● **MIRIAM MARGOLYES** stars in Frank Marous's controversial drama *The Killing of Sister George*. Tickets half-price to club members (normally £14 and £16). Tel 0114-276 9922.
- SCARBOROUGH**
Stephen Joseph Theatre in The Round
May 2
● **ALAN AYCKBOURN** continues his work at the theatre by directing and writing the words for a new musical, *A Word From Our Sponsor*. Club members can buy two tickets for the price of one (normally £7.95). Tel 01723 370541/378863.
- NOTTINGHAM**
Playhouse
March 23-24, 27-31
● **A SURREAL** comic fantasy by Alistair Beaton, based on a story by Nicolai Gogol. *The Nose* receives its world premiere. Buy one ticket and get a second for half-price (normally £9.50 and £11.50). Tel 0115-941 9419.
- WORTHING**
Connaught Theatre
March 30-April 1
● **GWYNETH POWELL** stars in *The Lady Goes To War*, based on the novel by E.M. Delaford. Tickets £4, £6 and £7 (normally £6.50, £8.50 and £9.50). Tel 01903 235333.
- BASINGSTOKE**
Haymarket Theatre
March 23-24 (evenings); March 25 (matinee)
● **FEW** more heartrending stories emerged from the last war than that of Anne Frank, whose diary has inspired the world for half a century. The Haymarket Theatre's stage adaptation of *The Diary of Anne Frank* stars Juliet Alderice and Philip Bond. Buy two tickets for the price of one (normally £10.50 (Thurs); £12 (Friday) and £8.50 for Saturday matinees). Tel 01256 465566.

MOLIERE ON TOUR

● **RED SHIFT THEATRE** presents a new version by Ranjit Bolt of Molière's comedy *George Dandin*, which charts the marriage of a wealthy self-made man of common stock to a philandering aristocrat. Buy two tickets for the price of one at the following venues:

- LONDON**
Cochrane Theatre
April 11-13. Tel 0171-242 7040
- READING**
Hexagon
May 3. Tel 01734 591591
- HOUSLOW**
Paul Robeson Theatre
May 5. Tel 0181-577 6969
- TAUNTON**
Brewhouse Theatre
May 9. Tel 01823 283244
- BOSTON**
- Blackfriars Arts Centre**
May 13. Tel 01205 363108
- BRECON**
Guildhall Theatre
May 18. Tel 01874 622884
- ABERYSTWYTH**
Arts Centre
May 19. Tel 01970 623232
- JERSEY**
Arts Festival
May 24. Tel 01534 73767
- WELLINGBOROUGH**
The Castle
June 2. Tel 01933 270007

HOW TO BOOK — AND JOIN

TO BOOK for any or all of this week's special offers, please phone the listed number during normal office hours. The price printed on the ticket you receive will be the special price negotiated by the Theatre Club. In some cases there may be a transaction charge to cover postage. TO JOIN the Theatre Club either send a cheque for £12.50, made payable to The Theatre Club, together with your name, address and telephone number to The Theatre Club, P.O. Box 2164, Colchester CO1 1GN, or telephone 01206 791737 using your credit card. Please allow 28 days for delivery of your membership pack. For general inquiries call 0171-387 9673

NEW RECORDS
Venus
Meisner
CONTEMPORARY

● **ANYT' MISBEHAVIN'** (15): Enkaran's song 'I dance show me' and the hits of Sam Walter. Non-stop energy on test. Lyric, Shallosbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5045). Mon-Sat, 8pm; mat. Thurs, 3pm and Sat, 5pm.

● **IMMORTAL BELOVED** (15): Gary Oldman as a Shakespearean, but the film sits on its hands and with Jason Robards and Isabelle Rossellini, writer-director, Bernard Ross. Empire (0171-434 0031) MGM Fulham Road (0171-570 2636) UCI Whiteleys (0171-752 3332) Warner (0171-437 4343).

● **LA (U)**: Albert Einstein steers his nose towards romance with an ordinary Joe. Overly cute comedy. With Ryan, Tim Robbins and Walter Matthau. Director, Fred Schepisi. Empire (0171-434 0031) MGM Fulham Road (0171-570 2636) UCI Whiteleys (0171-752 3332) Warner (0171-437 4343).

● **LOVE A MAN IN UNIFORM** (15): Cop show actor loses grip on reality. Striking Canadian film from director David Wellington, with Tom McCamus. Metro (0171-437 0757).

● **QUICK SHOW** (15): Director Robert Redford narrates a TV scandal of the late 1960s. Fine performances (John Turturro, Ralph Fiennes, Paul Scofield), but not enough bite, or relevance. Barbican (0171-638 8891) Sat (0171-727 4043) MGM Chelsea (0171-362 5050) Odette (0171-752 3332) (01426 914668) Kensington (01426 914668) Swiss Cottage (01426 914668) UCI Whiteleys (0171-752 3332) Warner (0171-437 4343).

● **LA REINE MARGOT** (15): Bloody, brooding, occasionally impressive French history lesson, with Isabelle Adjani and Daniel Auteuil. Curzon Phoenix (0171-389 1721) MGM Penton Street (0171-930 0031) UCI Whiteleys (0171-752 3332) Warner (0171-437 4343).

ARTS

NEW RECORDINGS: Light-headed magic of Nyman; first hearing of Karl Böhm's 1944 Meistersinger, shaking the dust off The Beatles

CONTEMPORARY

Stephen Pettitt

■ NYMAN
Noises, Sounds and Sweet Airs
Bott/Summers/Bostridge/
Ensemble Instrumental de
Basse-Normandie/Debut
Argo 40 842-2**

There is something about the marriage of Nyman's style to the words from Shakespeare's *The Tempest* in *Noises, Sounds and Sweet Airs*, a 72-minute work derived from Nyman's opera-ballet *La Princesse de Milan*, which is strangely compelling. It is do with the airiness and energy, the strange magic of the words. Despite the presence of Nyman's usual brutalistic devices of fast tempos, pulsating repetitions, foursquare rhythms, over-full, over-amplified scoring, tired harmonic progressions and second-rate melodies, Shakespeare's poetry generates a spirit of whirling, light-headed magic that infuses otherwise palpably mundane music.

The fact that none of the three singers is assigned specific roles emphasises still further the supremacy of the word. All share and share alike, and they do it well. Catherine Bott's piping tones are complemented by Hilary Summers's hauntingly sedate alto and Ian Bostridge's finely shaded tenor, as yet a smallish voice but a singularly lovely and intelligently used one. Dominique Debart maintains the energy and negotiates abrupt mood and colour switches suavely, while the Ensemble Instrumental de Basse-Normandie plays with the requisite unflagging energy and equally unflagging loud dynamic.

■ WEBER
Works for string quartet/
String Trio Op 20
Emerson Quartet
Deutsche Grammophon
445 828-2**

ON this issue, a worthy partner to DG's recent Webern offering directed by Boulez, the Emerson Quartet plays all of Webern's string chamber music with refinement and a wondrous sense of clarity, moment and direction, whether in the ripe, late Romantic slow movement that begins the disc or in the ultra-refined String Trio Op 20 and String Quartet Op 28 that end it.

VOCAL

Hilary Finch

■ ROSSINI
Messe Solenne
Chorus Musicus Köln/
Sperling
Opus III OPS 30-123**

THE excellent French Opus III label has turned up trumps again, this time with something of a collector's item: a version of Rossini's *Messe Solenne* that, despite the missing adjective, is more *Petite* than ever. Christoph Sperling bases his performance on Rossini's first edition, in which he specified eight in the chorus, four soloists, a harmonium (a well-behaved, rather than a piano). The 12 singers were the 12 apostles at what was to be the ageing Rossini's

histrionic to our ears. But the disarming soprano *Crucifixus* and the simplicity of the final prayer for peace reach their mark. This is a lively, imaginative recording, with the sound distributed and balanced particularly well.

■ BOLSHOI THEATRE CHILDREN'S CHOIR
Without Time or Season
Collins Classics 13912**

THE Young Pioneers may come and go, but the Bolshoi Theatre Children's Choir, founded in pre-revolutionary days, is here to stay. This is the sort of disc once only to be found on the dusty back shelves of Collier's bookshop in Charing Cross Road. Now, this selection of choral folksongs and art songs *Without Time or Season* is readily available with an informative essay, and not a letter of Cyrillic to be seen.

But can these really be children? The forthright singing, built from the chest-voice up and powered by diaphragms of iron, may not be quite what you expect: the solos which soar from the lungs of Marina Poplavskaya and Tatiana Zhuravleva are all but ready for the footlights. The repertoire ranges from *Everywhere Snow*, a transparent choral miniature by Cesar Cui, to little-known works by Grechaninov and Liadov. Best of all are the boldly expressive choruses with piano accompaniment by Rachmaninov, and four startling fortune-telling songs by Stravinsky, their rhythms and resonances tossed high from the mouths of *The Pike* and *Pot-Belly*.

Barry Millington

■ TCHAIKOVSKY
Symphony No 5: 1812
Overture
Berlin Philharmonic
Orchestra/Ozawa
DG 429 751-2**

■ TCHAIKOVSKY
Symphony No 5
MOZART
Symphony No 40
Nord Deutsche Rundfunk
Symphony Orchestra/Wand
RCA Victor Red Seal
09026 68032 2**



Ozawa: elegant phrasing

THERE has never been any shortage of recordings of Tchaikovsky's Fifth Symphony — there are more than 40 to choose from in the current catalogue — but the recent appearance of three from major conductors may have as much to do with the reassessment of the composer's status in the present day as with market considerations. James Hepokoski writes interestingly about that reassessment in the booklet notes for Seiji Ozawa's new release (actually recorded as long ago as 1989) on DG, while Günter Wand brings his customary trenchant intelligence to bear on the work in his live Hamburg recording for RCA. A third recording, by Claudio Abbado on Sony, was reviewed on this page on January 28.

Where Abbado's interpretation seemed to bring out the soulful Russian poignancy underlying the work, Wand goes for a more granitic strength and Ozawa for more plasticity, more suppleness of line. Thus, in the first movement, Ozawa shapes his phrases elegantly and allows for more fluidity in the structure. Wand's account, by contrast, is almost frightening in its intensity. Similarly, in the *Andante cantabile* (second movement), Wand's expansive tempo and protracted phrases provide an inexorably tragic backdrop to the lyrical unfolding of phrases; the climaxes — with brass venomously punching out the symphony's principal motif — are overwhelming.

Both Ozawa and Abbado have much to offer, but if you thought that Wand's Germanic preoccupations might count against him in this repertoire, you would be mistaken. For all his measured tempos, Wand's performance is electrifying, and the sheer vigour from this octogenarian in the

finale is simply astounding. Wand's coupling — Mozart's *Symphony No 40* in G Minor — may not be an obvious one, but ultimately it provides more to chew on than Ozawa's 1812 Overture. Wand's Mozart has a heavy tread in the opening movement and is articulated in a way that we would now recognise as unidiomatic. Yet somehow it does not sound hopelessly anachronistic: perhaps it is the integrity of the music-making that sweeps away objections, or perhaps it is the dark, tragic colouring of the work that lends itself to such treatment. The *Andante* is a touch ponderous for my taste, but both the Menuetto and the finale have a spring in their step and a fine sense of momentum, thanks to their carefully graded accents.

OPERA

John Higgins

■ WAGNER
Die Meistersinger
von Nürnberg
Seefried/Seider/Schöffler/
Kunz/Alsen/Vienna
Philharmonic/Böhm
Preisler 90234, mono
(4 CDs)**

IN THE summer of 1944, with the war going badly for the Axis, orders went out for all the theatres in Germany and Austria to be closed. But radio remained, and at the end of that year Karl Böhm assembled a cast for a broadcast of *Die Meistersinger*. It was never transmitted. Preisler's set is the first public hearing of what was put together half a century ago for Austrian radio. It is complete apart from a section leading up to and including Sachs's Act III monologue. This has been snipped from a recording made at the Bayreuth Festival the previous year with the same Sachs (Paul Schöffler) but a different David (Erich Witte).

Böhm gathered around him some of the singers who were to form the core of the Vienna State Opera when it sprang back to life so swiftly after the war. Here is Irmgard Seefried as Eva, Erich Kunz as Beckmesser, and, of course, Schöffler as Hans Sachs.

The strength of the set lies in the intellectual rattle between Sachs and Beckmesser, interpreted by two great artists. Kunz makes the Town Clerk an articulate pedant, precise in all his singing so that the Act II serenade never descends to parody. A bit too likeable? Perhaps. But there is Schöffler, in his mid-forties as a magisterial Sachs. He was more bass than baritone and one or two of the higher notes give him trouble, but such quibbles fade before the authority he brings. Böhm and Schöffler reflecting together on the "new" music beneath the elder tree in Act II makes superb Wagner. Herbert Alsen, a gravel-voiced bass who became a festival director when his singing career was over, is an imposing Pogner.

Seefried was then one of the State Opera's newest recruits. She had made her debut the previous year as Eva, which was to become one of her most famous roles, although this, Preisler claims, is her only recording of the role. She begins a bit shrilly, but the serene way in which she starts the Quintet shows why she was so much admired. The set's great weakness is the Walter of August Seider, dry-voiced and resolutely unglamorous. He was not one of the State Opera gang and was brought in from Leipzig, to where he soon returned to decent obscurity.

The sound quality is variable, but the vigour and joy Böhm and the Vienna Philharmonic bring to the score shine through. So, a tempting issue for those prepared to turn back the clock 50 years: modernists should stay with Sawallisch on EMI.

POP SINGLES

David Sinclair

■ THE BEATLES
Baby It's You
Apple/EMI 8 82073*

BASKING in the global success of last year's *Live At The BBC* album (which sold five million copies), the marketing department at EMI now steers the grumpy train in the direction of the singles chart. Lifted from that refurbished collection of ancient BBC recordings, *Baby It's You* is accompanied in this format by previously unreleased radio session recordings of *I Follow The Sun*, *Devil In Her Heart* and *Boys*.

The lads from Liverpool knock out the old David-Bacharach/Williams song,

FILMS ON VIDEO: A shady President; kittenish antics; Depression drama



Harrison Ford as Jack Ryan confronts drug barons and government duplicity in *Clear and Present Danger* directed by Phillip Noyce

■ CLEAR AND PRESENT DANGER
CIC, 12, 1994

HARRISON FORD returns as Jack Ryan, fighting government duplicity and Colombian drug barons in the best Tom Clancy movie to date. Director Phillip Noyce avoids the bloated action of *Patriot Games* and prevents the complex plot from tripping itself up. Encouraging, too, to find a Hollywood movie that takes a harsh look at government antics and presents the President as a slippery Joe with shady business links. Available to rent.

■ THE ARISTOCATS
Buena Vista, U, 1970

PLEASANT, though less than classic, Disney cartoon set in a fussy detailed Paris of 1910. Three heinous kittens, chubby enough to be pigs,

are kidnapped from their mistress's mansion, prompting episodic adventures that are immediately appealing to children but lack the resonance that makes *Dumbo* and others such favourites. The first Disney cartoon to emerge without Disney's own guiding hand: that may explain things.

■ LA BONNE ANNEE
Arrow, 15, 1973

CLAUDE LELOUCH's films have long been out of fashion, although their combination of high chic, bald-dash and technical fireworks can still make enjoyable viewing. This one contains bittersweet echoes of his 1966 hit *Un Homme Et Une Femme*. Lina Ventura lends the film more weight than it deserves as the paroled jewel thief hoping to renew his love

affair with the antique dealer Françoise Fabian.

■ CRONOS
Tartan, 18, 1992

CLASSY Mexican vampire film about an alchemist's gold-plated beetle that offers eternal youth to anyone pierced by its darting metal legs. Debuting director Guillermo del Toro gives the tale an art movie's ambition and poetic atmosphere. There are also enough twisted religious references to make a good Catholic apoplectic. Ron Perlman sticks out awkwardly as the greedy nephew of a dying industrialist, but the film easily survives its flaws.

■ JACK BE NIMBLE
Tartan, 18, 1992

PART horror comedy; part eerie fairy tale; part arty artefact; part commercial

bloodbath. Something for everyone, then, in Garth Maxwell's striking first film about the grisly legacy of two New Zealand children farmed out to adopted parents. If the ingredients never gel, Maxwell gives us much to ponder about the beast within, and his adult leads, Alexis Arquette and Sarah Smuts-Kennedy, keep admirably straight faces.

■ THE NIGHT OF THE HUNTER
Warner, 12, 1955

CHARLES LAUGHTON's single fling at directing resulted in one of Hollywood's most poetic and mysterious films: a wild Depression drama involving stolen money, a psychopathic preacher (Robert Mitchum), the Ohio River and two fleeing children. Cameraman Stanley Cortez

fills the screen with mad, magic images, and there simply is not another film like it. The video includes the original cinema trailer.

■ PEPPERMINT SODA
Arrow, 15, 1977

DIANE KURY'S gift for carving unsentimental films from her own life was powerfully demonstrated in this first feature about two sisters in the 1960s, one quiet, one exuberant. Their school life is drab, and relationships become strained with each other, their friends and their separated parents. Kury's never falls into glib nostalgia, and draws natural performances from two fresh faces (Eleanor Klarwein and Odile Michel). The original title is *Diabolo Menthe*.

GEOFF BROWN

Baby It's You, with their usual professional good humour but little inspiration.

Swathed in a haze of old-fashioned tape wobble and distortion, George Harrison's halting guitar solo and the cheesy harmony backing vocals — "You should hear what they say about you (cheat, cheat, sha-la-la-la)" — sound unbelievably dated. The additional tracks are rougher still, with Ringo Starr's vocal on *Boys* representing a notable triumph of effort over ability.

With so many better songs



The Beatles: cobwebbed

by new groups to choose from now, one would like to think that the Beatles package is primarily of curiosity value. But then again, nobody, from the chief executive of EMI to the most humble reviewer, has yet managed to over-estimate demand for this cobwebbed material.

POP ALBUMS

David Sinclair

■ ELTON JOHN
Made In England
Rocket/Mercury 526 185*

WHATEVER Elton John's reasons for embarking on his current round of luridly confessional interviews ("I took cocaine every four minutes" and so forth), reading about his personal excesses is a lot more entertaining than listening to this latest batch of songs. For while his lifestyle may have been as degenerate as that of any "serious" rock 'n' roller, as a songwriter John's credibility remains stuck on the far side of zero.

Made In England is a predictably stodgy collection, whose tone is accurately signposted by the big-production ballad *Believe*, currently drifting down the chart after briefly peaking at No 15.

The arrangements divide into jaunty singalongs (*Lies, Pain, Made In England*) and overwrought, cartoon epics (*House, Cold*). The lyrics, by Bernie Taupin, or simply Taupin as he now styles himself, are either sentimental ("Please, please let me grow old with you") or self-pitying ("I had 40 years of pain and nothing to cling on to"), but rarely match the mood of the tune to which they are appended. *Pain*, for instance, marries the most desolate lyric of the lot ("Pain is love/Pain is the cure") to a cheerful, romping little riff with faint echoes of *Saturday Night's Alright For Fighting*.

The last straw is *Belfast*, a misguided attempt to empathise with those caught up in the mortal turmoil of Northern Ireland, complete with orchestral and Celtic pipes, which simply sounds patronising: "I never saw a brave place, Belfast".

Like so many of our national institutions, John is out of touch and out of time. The best that can be said about *Made In England* is that it is not a collection of duets or cover versions.

JAZZ

Clive Davis

■ GERRY MULLIGAN
QUARTET
Dream A Little Dream
Telarc CD-8336**

IN a logical world, the baritone saxophone would always have stayed half-submerged in the reeds section of the jazz orchestra. It took the artistry and self-discipline of players such as Harry Carney and Gerry Mulligan to tap the full potential of this cumbersome instrument.

In the public mind, Mulligan will always be associated with the ill-starred Chet Baker; the symbiotic relationship they achieved on their pianoless quartets has seldom been matched. Partnerships, in fact, tend to bring out the best in Mulligan.

On *Dream A Little Dream*, he is out on his own — or, more precisely, backed by a polite rhythm section which offers few surprises. On first hearing, the results seem almost bland. Give the album a little more time and the subtleties begin to emerge. The relationship between soloist and backing group proves as one-sided — but ultimately as fruitful — as that found on Stan Getz's later albums.

Mulligan has no trouble sustaining the flow of melodic ideas. He also has the confidence to re-interpret two of the most popular tunes from the Baker-Mulligan book, *My Funny Valentine* and *Walking Shoes*, the first of which is performed as a rapt duet with the guest pianist Bill Mays

(who also provides gossamer accompaniment on *As Close As Pages In A Book*). Another duet, this time with the quartet's pianist Ted Rosenthal, wrings the last ounce of emotion from Alec Wilder's bittersweet ballad *I'll Be Around*.

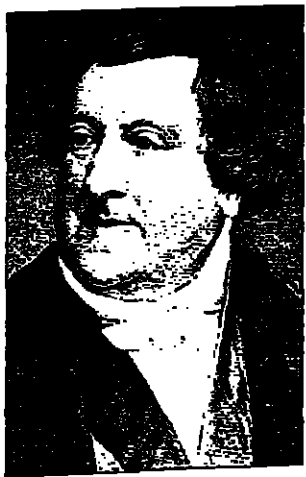
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BILL ASHTON's charges return with a hustling big-band set, recorded live at Ronnie Scott's. It goes without saying that the section work is laser-sharp; even more welcome is the sensitivity and restraint shown by the soloists. Mick Foster's baritone contribution to *Willow Green Willow* is characteristically thoughtful.

■ VARIOUS ARTISTS
Red Hot On Impulse!

Impulse! GRP 11512**
THERE may not have been much to be said for the grandiose claims of the jazz-meets-rap philosophy of *Red Hot + Cool*, but this spin-off anthology is a good enough excuse for a nostalgic trip back to the experimental 1960s. Though there is too much of the mystic Alice Coltrane to suit all tastes, her husband, John, is represented by the incandescent *Acknowledgement*, and Oliver Nelson and Charles Mingus are on hand with *Stolen Moments* and *Hora Decubitus* respectively.

* Worth hearing
** Worth considering
*** Worth buying



Rossini: his Last Supper

Last Supper; and this performance really does make us feel as if we are eavesdropping on a touchingly private communication between the composer and his Maker.

At the end of his manuscript, Rossini had written, "I was born for opera buffa, you know that... praise be to Thee, and let me go to Paradise." He certainly viewed the life of the world to come with some relish, if the end of this Credo is anything to go by.

With the soloists singing the choral parts as well, this and the Gloria whirr like a miniature, finely cut kaleidoscope of colour and sound. Sperling's insistence on observing Rossini's every metronome mark and phrasing indication can make the bass and alto solos, in particular, sound a little too

JOHN ELIOT GARDINER

conducts

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With spring just around the corner, shoppers with a head for fashion make for the millinery



Straw boater with navy crown, trimmed with a petersham ribbon. £45 from Debenhams

Where did
you get
that hat?

The first stirrings of the Season are in the air — millinery begins to rustle. What will we be wearing this year to weddings and garden parties, fêtes and christenings. Henley and Ascot?

The little Fifties hat is back, the perky pillbox with its wisp of veil. The trouble is this hat wears you. It needs the whole look to match — the chic silhouette of a tailored twinset with neat clutch handbag and strappy heels. Most women wouldn't dare — and most who do probably shouldn't. Anyway, on a hot summer day who wants to get pegged to the lawn by soaring heels, too constricted by corsetry even to cry for champagne?

Fortunately, an alternative is on offer. Fashion is alliter with floral frocks, a softer Riviera look – romantically set off by the broad-brimmed hat. This season's pastel colours are perfectly complemented by a crowning sweep of light straw, or look great abbreviated with a shot of classic black, softened with a swathe of pale organza.

For those who want to get ahead by a hat trick there are designers who specialise in elaborate one-offs. Herbert Johnson, the oldest milliners in London, caters for a sartorially distinguished clientele — Joan Collins and the Princess of Wales included. Alternatively, all over the country you will find excellent, if less established, milliners such as Katharine Goodison who works from her studio in Pinlipo, west London.

A bespoke hat will usually involve three or more visits to the milliners. "The aim is to come up with something which suits the wearer's personality as well as their outfit," Ms Goodison says. If you aren't sure what you want you can experiment with a range of styles. Richard Jaggs-Fowler, of Herbert Johnson, suggests that for a classic summer straw a roll-back brim is ideal — so that relations can kiss you at weddings, and your face won't be shadowed in photographs.

Couture millinery is blocked, stitched and trimmed by hand. But you pay for the perfection. At Herbert Johnson a



Katharine Goodison wearing her own design — a sweeping straw hat trimmed with a pink silk taffeta bow, £150. Ms Goodison specialises in elegant one-offs

classic summer hat can cost anything from £300 to £600, depending on the quality of the straw and the extravagance of the trimmings. A similar design by Katharine Goodison would cost £150-£200.

To have a hat made takes three weeks — more like six as Ascot approaches. For those who leave things to the last minute, who late-night-shop on the Wednesday before the wedding, there is a selection of designer hats at Harvey Nichols, ranging from a dramatic black creation by Patricia Underwood at £375, to the delicate apricot coloured straw of a £69 Meucci hat. Their classic shapes can be trimmed and

retrimmed for every outing to create a fresh look.

Still, anything over £50 can seem a lot for a hat, especially if you are one of those people who whips it off the second you get out of church, or who spends the entire garden party twirling it in your hands like a Tibetan prayer wheel. Debenhams stocks a range of less costly millinery. A summer hat in natural straw with a dark crown and petrusham ribbon is marketed under Debenhams' own design label, J. Taylor, for £45. Others cost as little as £20. And if their shapes are a little less elaborately sculpted than hand-blocked hats, you can comfort

yourself that they are probably more resilient to rain. Besides, when your hat is sat upon on the way home — the back of the car is the grave of many — you will still have money left in your purse to indulge in the whole glorious hat buying process again.

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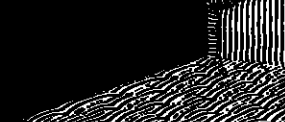
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Poet corners the mind of a bookworm

A record by Bob Dylan sparked off a passion for Dylan Thomas that has spanned 25 years

Antiquarian bookseller Jeff Towns is ambivalent about his collection of Dylan Thomas memorabilia. His business interests and his hoarding instincts, he finds, are constantly at odds.

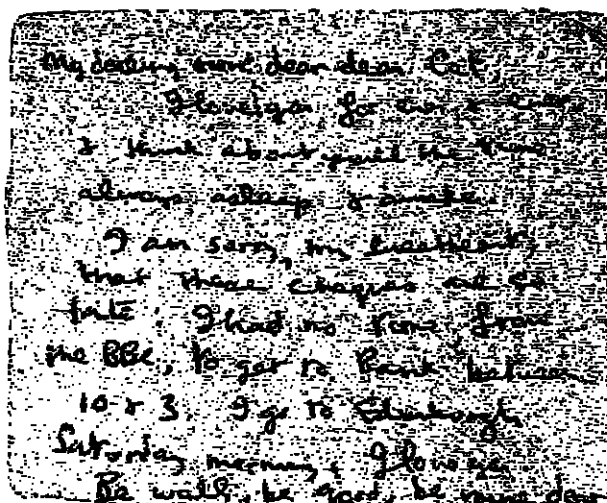
Frequently, he shows items to prospective customers only to find himself, moments later, trying to discourage them from buying.

"Sometimes that has the effect of making them even more keen," he says. He has even sold things, only to buy them back at a later date.

Some, no doubt, saw it as effrontery when a Londoner descended on the poet's ugly, lovely town of Swansea 25 years ago to open a bookshop called Dylan's. The shop, with its trompe l'oeil painting of the poet at an upstairs window, is in Salubrious Passage, which was transmuted in a Thomas short story into Paradise Alley.

Mr Towns's youthful introduction to the poet was through pop music. "The first LP I owned was of Bob Dylan," he says. "According to legend, Robert Zimmerman had assumed the name of the Welsh poet he much admired. Young Jeff asked his Welsh-born mother about Dylan Thomas and borrowed a copy of the *Collected Poems* and a biography by Constantine FitzGibbon from the library. 'That is where it all started,' Mr Towns says.

Today, he lives in a converted manse, once occupied by the Rev David Rees, the poet's



An affectionate note by the poet to his wife, Caitlin

uncle, with his family and an idiosyncratic collection of Thomas mementoes. An exhibition of his Dylanabilia is a cornerstone of Swansea's current UK Year of Literature celebrations.

Mr Towns began buying first editions and soon progressed to signed copies. He remembers the thrill of being offered his first autographed book, a general anthology of poems. He paid about £30 for it. "That was 25 years ago. I was so excited."

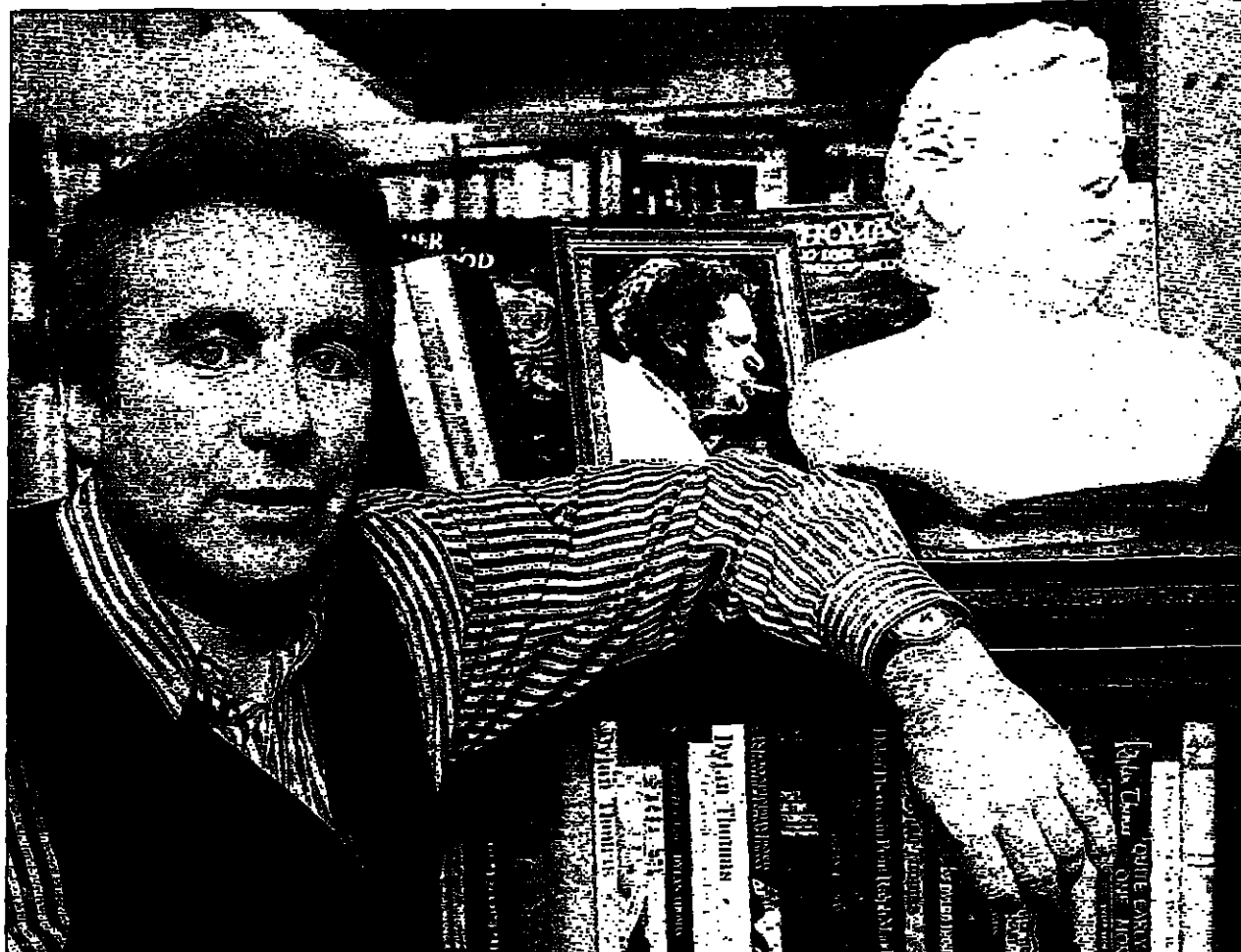
The most expensive Thomas books are the signed limited editions that came out when he was famous, towards the end of his life. There were only 60 copies published of the *Collected Poems* signed by Thomas and bound in leather. Mr Towns has one, which would cost about £2,000 today. Among his collection is a copy of *18 Poems* dedicated by the poet to John Arlott (the late cricket and poetry broadcaster). Nowadays, he can afford to be blasé about such items. "Dylan was generous with his signature," he says.

Word of the bookseller's obsession soon spread through the trade and col-

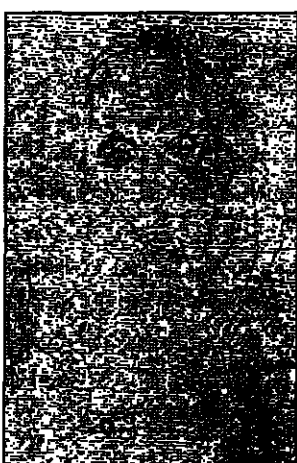
leagues frequently ring him with tidbits of information. One day, as he arrived at a book fair in London's Russell Hotel, a colleague handed him a copy of *The Collected Writings of Dylan Thomas*. Seeing the book had lost its dust wrapper and was not a rare item, Mr Towns returned it with thanks. In that case, the friend indicated, he would bid for it.

His suspicions roused, Mr Towns snatched the book back and found an effusive dedication by Thomas to Charlie Chaplin written on the fly-leaf. What made the find especially interesting was that the couple's Hollywood meeting is well documented, both in Chaplin's autobiography and in Thomas biographies. With such a provenance, Mr Towns was fortunate to acquire the book for around £200. "I think a nought could be added to that now," he says.

His memorabilia is not intended to be a scholarly collection. Items stand or fall on their intrinsic interest to him. There is, for instance, a bolognese-stained tablecloth from an Italian restaurant in Greenwich Village with



Jeff Towns shows off part of his Dylan Thomas collection at the book shop he set up in Swansea 25 years ago



Sketch of Thomas, by Caitlin

drawings in each corner.

One is a passable caricature of Dylan by Caitlin, captioned "Mia marita" (my husband). Thomas's own contribution is a doodle of a restaurant scene with someone the worse for wear stretched out on the floor. The other corners have drawings by the couple's American host and his widow, who sold Mr Towns the cloth.

A review copy of Malcolm Brinnin's *Dylan Thomas in America* sent to Edith Sitwell

for review, is annotated with scathing remarks such as "Rubbish!" and "Alas!" Alongside a reference to women who were said to be chasing Thomas as she has written, "They must all be floozies."

The libraries of Thomas's friends such as the broadcaster Wynford Vaughan-Thomas and the poet Vernon Watkins proved a fertile source of acquisitions. Among a number of drawings by and of Thomas there are sketches by the cartoonist Low and painter Michael Ayrton.

Intrusions from the outside world often appear on Thomas worksheets. Alongside one poem in the process of creation there is a list of local tradesmen to whom the writer owes money. Another has the names of three horses he plans to back, and a third bears a list of American cities to be visited on a forthcoming lecture tour.

An accountant would doubtless advise Mr Towns to sell his collection, and he concedes that he can afford to keep it only with difficulty. But one item he would never part with, bought from a Californian collector in Santa Barbara, is a love letter, written in a minute hand on the back of a bank paying-in slip, to "My darling own dear dear Car". The brief note ends, "Be well, be good, be mine, dear." That scrap of paper is a remarkable survival, says Mr Towns. "It was cherished by Caitlin although she moved from pillar to post."

His advice to collectors is to deal with members of the Antiquarian Booksellers Association who buy and sell modern first editions. Pay attention to condition, and try to buy books in as near to fine condition as possible and in their original dust wrappers. *18 Poems* without its dust wrapper is worth between £200 and £250. With the wrapper it is close to £2,000 — but that advice can be overridden if the books have an interesting inscription.

Mr Towns's exhibition, *Dylan Thomas, Word and Image*, which continues throughout the year at Swansea's new Ty Llân (House of Literature), will afford a further opportunity for sharing his pleasure.

ALAN ROAD

● *Dylan's Salubrious Passage*, Swansea (01792 655255). The Dylan Thomas exhibition is being held at Ty Llân, Somerset Place, Swansea (01792 463980).

● *Antiquarian Booksellers Association*, 26 Charing Cross Road, London WC2H 0DG (0171 439 3118).

● *Booksellers who deal in modern first editions include:* Bertram Rota, 9 Langley Court, Covent Garden, London WC2E 9RX (0171 836 0729); *Ulysses*, 40 Museum Street, London WC1A 1LT (0171 831 1600); *Gekoski*, 15a Bloomsbury Square, London WC1A 2LP (0171 404 6676).

● *Dealers in autographed letters include:* John Wilson, 50 Acce End Street, Eynsham, Oxford OX8 1PD (01865 880833).

SALEROOM

PREVIEW

□ Judy Garland may have seemed slightly the worse for wear in her last concert performance before her death from a drug overdose, but Bonhams hopes to raise £10,000 to £15,000 for the film footage of that event on Tuesday.

□ At musical instrument sales in London this week, Sotheby's has violins from £1,000 to £380,000 on Tuesday, while Christie's has bows from £400 to £9,000 on Wednesday.

□ Fans who have been queuing to see the work of the surrealist Man Ray at the Serpentine gallery in London can now buy their own at Sotheby's on Wednesday and Thursday. The 500 works include *Patentable*, a large artist's palette turned into a table (£8,000 to £12,000), and *Perpetual Motif*, a metronome whose weight is a blinking eye (£6,000 to £8,000).

□ Thirteen works by L.S. Lowry are on sale at Christie's on Thursday. The group includes *Going to a Football Match*, which depicts thousands of well-behaved fans (£30,000 to £40,000), and *Portrait of a Young Man* (£10,000 to £15,000).

REVIEW

□ A teddy bear that Bonhams said was once owned by Christopher Robin, son of the author A.A. Milne, sold for £3,200 to the Museum of Childhood of Brighton. It would no doubt have fetched more had Mr Milne not denied any involvement with it. At the same sale, a record £3,680 was paid for a bear made by the English manufacturers Leifay Toys Ltd.

□ An English poster fetched a record price when Christie's South Kensington sold a 1951 film poster advertising *The Lavender Hill Mob* for £6,187.

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● *Bonhams*, Montpelier Street, London SW7 (0171 894 9161); *Christie's*, 8 King Street, London SW1 (0171 839 9060); *Sotheby's*, 35 New Bond Street, London W1 (0171 493 9080).

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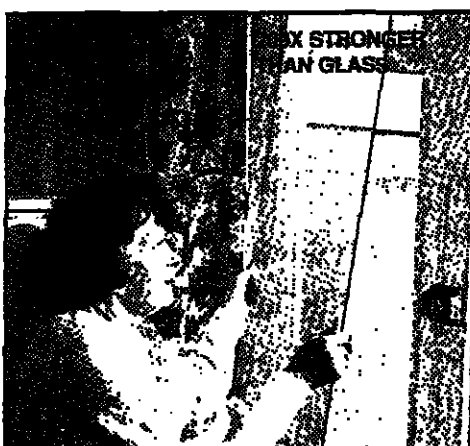
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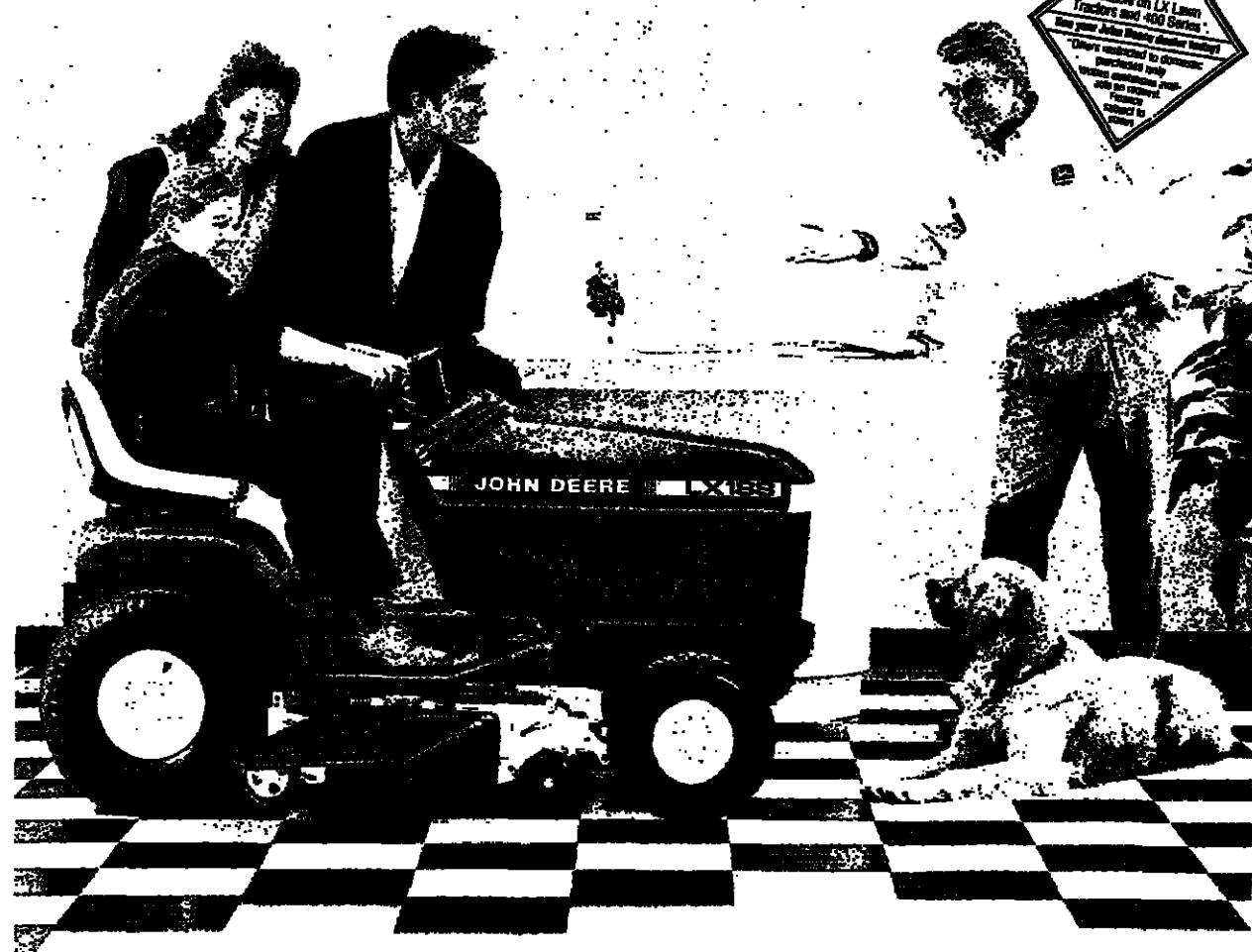
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GARDENING

Safety has been a growing priority in the lawnmower market, and new EC legislation has brought a big advance in the form of Operator Presence Control (OPC). This affects all new petrol-driven mowers. Any such lawnmower that left the factory, or was imported into Britain, after January 1 this year, should have been fitted with a device ensuring that the mower blades cannot be accidentally activated when the machine is stationary.

Petrol-driven mowers come in two types, with either a rotary blade or cylinder blades, and both are affected by the OPC rules. Rotary mowers cut the grass with a swift, scything action and are suitable for fine lawns, as well as longer grass and uneven ground. A cylinder mower (first introduced in 1830 by Edwin Budding, who borrowed the idea from a factory carpet-cutting machine) trims the grass in a scissor action, the rotating blades cutting the grass against a fixed blade running across the bottom of the mower. This guarantees a neater cut than a rotary, but will not operate efficiently on long grass or rough ground.

Until now, a gardener could leave a petrol mower with its engine running while the grass bag was emptied. No longer — at least not for the rotary mowers, which make up the majority of petrol-powered machines in Britain. Instead, the engine will cut every time the mower becomes stationary.

The OPC legislation demands only that the blade cannot be restarted accidentally. For rotary mowers, which are designed on a direct power-to-cutter basis, it is either mechanically impossible or prohibitively expensive to cut off the power to the blade and leave the engine running.

This is, however, possible for petrol-driven cylinder mowers, whose blades operate on a clutch mechanism. All models produced in recent years are designed so that the operator starts the engine and then engages the blades by moving a switch or lever. This has made it possible to isolate the blade operation, leaving the engine running, and still comply with OPC.

On existing petrol rotary mowers, once the engine has

Mower law aims to cut mishaps

George Plumptre, The Times Gardener, on safe mowing



As we were: the hard part of spring's first mowing; perhaps a new machine is the answer

been started the speed of blade revolution increases as the throttle is opened. The mower's drive mechanism is engaged by moving a lever, usually a hinged bar (bale-bar) fitted parallel to the main handle. Releasing the bale-bar stops the mower moving.

Now, in addition to this process, OPC demands the introduction of another lever or bar, which has to be pushed forward and held for the engine to start. This makes starting the engine a two-handed operation. Releasing this bar, which has to be done to empty the grassbag, cuts the engine. Even

WEEKEND TIPS

● Ensure that borders are well-mulched. An organic mixture of compost and leaf mould is best.

● Fertilise your lawn. If you use a non-organic fertiliser, apply it before rain — it needs the moisture to activate it.

● Protect clematis shoots from slugs. The plant is especially vulnerable if grown against a wall. Put ash (from a log or coal fire) around the shoots, rather than using slug pellets.

on cylinder mowers, whose engines start running when the machine is stationary, a similar two-handed procedure has been introduced for the blade to be re-engaged.

The OPC changes will tempt many people to consider the ignition key start, which is an option on most petrol mowers (standard only on the most expensive), though the average £100 that it adds to the price of a mower is still a deterrent.

Complying with the OPC regulations demands modifications only to existing models and hardly affects small electric mowers, because it is

already almost universal that their power supply is cut as soon as the drive lever or handle is released. Power is restored only by pressing a separate button and then re-engaging the drive lever — the two-handed starting operation that OPC demands.

For electric mowers, the most interesting introduction is the cordless machine, powered by a battery. This does away with the electric cable connecting to the mains, which can be inconvenient — especially when mowing anything more than the smallest lawns — and is a potential safety hazard if the cable is accidentally cut by the mower blade.

Black & Decker has introduced a battery-powered rotary mower with a 16in cut. The 12-volt battery will power the mower for an estimated 45-60 minutes before it needs to be removed and put on its trickle-charger for 24 hours. The mower's recommended price is £399.99, including VAT.

A smaller competitor has been introduced by AL-KO, one of Europe's largest garden tool and mower companies. Similar to the Black & Decker battery mower — four wheels, a rear roller and grass bag — the AL-KO mower gives a 12in cut and will run for about 30 minutes before needing re-charging (for which 28 hours is recommended). Price, £299.95, including VAT.

Battery mowers are still a novelty, and expensive, compared with similar machines with an electric cable. The biggest improvement for the future will be to increase the battery's life before re-charging is needed.

For most manufacturers of electric machines, the main priority is providing the quality of larger, more expensive mowers in the smallest, cheapest ones. Flymo's new Turbo Compact 300 is a good example. It is identical to the existing, larger Flymo Turbo Compact 350, but reduced to a 12in cut, and with the competitive recommended price of £129.99, including VAT.

● Black & Decker (Prototype Communications 01949 883228), AL-KO (Britain) 01207 500285, Flymo (The Rowland Company 0171-436 4600).

Gardens to visit, page 21

GARDEN ANSWERS



STEPHEN ANDERTON replies to readers' letters

Q My wife grows hellebores with great success, but when they are cut for the house they droop almost at once. She has tried boiling the ends of the stalks, but this does not seem to help. She has now taken to floating the flowers in a bowl of water, but would prefer to use them as cut flowers in a vase. Can you help? — Professor S.H.N.V. Temperly, Langport, Somerset.

A The Orientalis-type hellebores have such a long stalk for early spring that the temptation to use them as cut flowers, like daffodils, is irresistible. But they do droop. The trick is to pick them after they have set seed and begun to be papery. Put a pin several times through that part of the stem which will be under water, or if the stem is very thick, lightly score it with a pin over the same part. Stand them up to their necks in cold water for an hour before arranging.

Q For the past couple of years I have been trying to rescue a badly neglected herbaceous border. I would like to convert part of it to a formally tailored shrubbery. The soil is poor and limey, and rhododendrons do not grow here. The border is backed by a dry-stone wall, through which grow ivy and nettles. Could you please advise me on the most suitable plants? — Mrs Margaret Liebert, Aynho, Northamptonshire.

A I like the sound of a "formally tailored shrubbery": it makes me think of those wonderful Victorian shrubberies of rolling mounds of contrasting evergreenery. Such simplicity of planting would contrast well with the colour of the remaining herbaceous border. I would plant hollies, with perhaps one or two variegated forms for contrast. You could grow the strawberry tree (*Arbutus unedo*), which flowers and fruits concurrently in late

autumn, and is happy on limey soils, despite being a member of the heather and rhododendron family. In the olive family, *Phillyrea latifolia* is a small evergreen tree of distinction, which I would not be without.

There are many cypress-like trees to use at the back of the border, and you could choose according to the speed of growth required. I would plant box towards the front and, for its low-arching habit, the laurel *Prunus cerasifera* 'Otto Luyken'. I would grow flamboyantly spotted laurel *Aucuba japonica* 'Crotonifolia' (male) and the all-green form *longifolia* (female), for the broad, glossy foliage and berries. Broad-leaved evergreens such as these are invaluable in a garden, and fewer in number than the small-leaved or cypress-type evergreens.

For perfume, I would plant any of the mahonias, especially 'Charity' and 'Undulata', and *Osmanthus x burkwoodii* and *decorus*.

Q We used to break up the starkness of our pebble-dashed house with wisteria, but the pruning became too much for us. Virginia creeper looked wonderful but got out of control. Is there anything, not needing support, which will climb without making work, and does not cause damage? — Margaret Drew, Pen-y-lan, Cardiff.

A Anything vigorous enough to climb up two storeys, be it *Clematis montana*, Russian vine, honeysuckle or a rose, is going to

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PROPERTY

13

To protect the identity of their villages, householders are helping to draw up guidelines for new developments

Good character-building stuff

The tiny Cotswold village of Down Ampney is playing a vital role in shaping the future face of Britain. Its villagers took part in an experiment by the Countryside Commission to show how the essence of a place can be crystallised on paper in the form of a "Village Design Statement". This will be used to safeguard the village's character by ensuring that any new development reflects, rather than spoils, it.

Down Ampney and three other villages (Cottingham, in Cambridgeshire; Carmel, Cumbria and Elstead, Surrey) were chosen to test a way of producing workable design statements, based on an earlier experiment carried out at Yoxall, East Staffordshire. The Commission now plans to promote the idea throughout Britain.

The nitty-gritty of deciding what endows a sense of place is not simple. Nor is gaining support for restrictive planning controls in a nation of home-owners. The Commission's environment consultants, BDOR, of Bristol, have hit on a way of achieving both - at once - they asked the residents of Down Ampney to decide what is special about their village.

The Commission's work is being followed closely by John Gummer, the environment minister, whose interest is significant since nearly three million new homes are planned for Britain in the next 30 years. The rich regional diversity that characterises Britain could be drowned in a deluge of monotony unless a formula is used to transfer the stamp of a place on to modern buildings.

Mr Gummer saw the Cottingham and Down Ampney village statements last autumn and published a research paper in January, "Community Involvement in Planning and Development Processes", also produced by BDOR.

The Commission observes a "sea-change" at government level where intervention in design is no longer seen as inhibiting to development. Roger Ward, the Commission's senior countryside officer, says: "Mr Gummer is keen to raise the standard of development and we're showing that what we're doing fits that theme."

A briefing note we sent to local authorities in January created enormous interest. By autumn we will

have produced detailed advice on design statements."

At Down Ampney, a workshop organised by the Parish Council and Cotswold District Council was attended by 55 people in November 1993. In the morning, residents photographed what they saw as the village's distinctive features. Their lunch, then they split into groups to compare notes and draw conclusions.

Down Ampney on a wet winter day is no beauty. It straggles over flat, windswept fields six miles south-east of Cirencester. Its north end is

was their scheme as much as ours," he said. "It's refreshing to work with the people you're planning for. They understand the village's character and came up with realistic ideas, like retirement bungalows, for example."

"The final statement, when published, will go to every resident, with guidelines on aspects such as replacement windows and paint colours. It's democratic people have the opportunity to shape their village."

At the end of the day one lady said: "I knew I liked the village, but now I know why I like it."

Planning staff took a draft design

should include traditional hazel wattle hurdle fencing, barge boards, stone mullions and tall chimneys.

Cotswold stone should be used to face new buildings in the village centre, and good-quality reconstructed stone should be used elsewhere. Roof tiles need to be made from stone, slate or clay. Extensions should not be in front of the traditional building line.

Guidelines for the new estate also suggest that: "All houses should have at least 42-degree roof pitches, use narrow gables and have narrow, two-light windows and painted woodwork. Hedges and clumps of broad-

leaf trees should be planted to help the edge of the development blend with adjoining fields."

Two residents have already run into trouble getting planning permission. Chris Smith's plans for a Victorian-style conservatory with a reconstructed stone base were turned down. He then explained it had been designed to match an existing reconstructed stone extension, and has now been granted permission.

Sue Rootes, of Pear Tree Cottage, wanted a lean-to conservatory with a natural stone base to replace the existing one at the back of her 18th-century house.

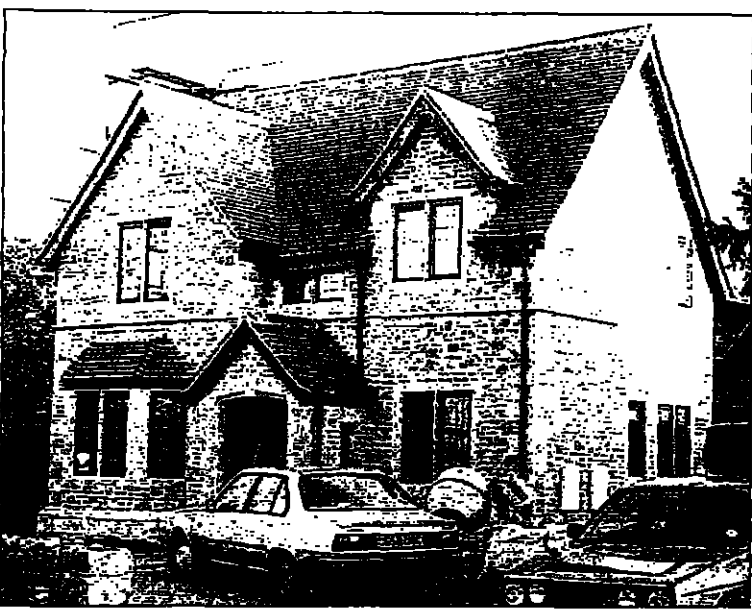
"They said it couldn't be double-glazed as it might offend the eye, but it was only going to be seen by cows

parish council, says: "Down Ampney is not a pretty Cotswold village like Bibury, so things went through that shouldn't have: we'd look at the site plan rather than at the detailed application. We now look more closely at how the application fits in with the style of the village. This statement will make life easier for everyone."

What is fascinating about Down Ampney's statement is that it could do more than merely preserve the village's character: it could strengthen it.

CHRISTINE WEBB

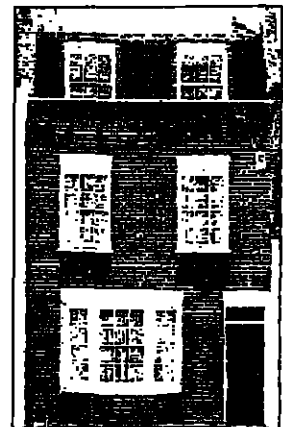
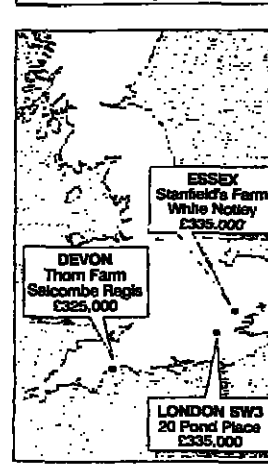
● The book *Design in the Countryside* Experiments is available from the Countryside Commission (01604 781848), £8, including p&p.



One of the new houses being built in the heart of Down Ampney (left), and one of the original estate worker's cottages, built around 1890



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Above, London: 20 Pond Place, Chelsea SW3. Modernised terrace house with rear yard. Three bedrooms, two bathrooms, kitchen and cloakroom. About £335,000 (John D. Wood, 0171-352 1484).

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Devon: Thorn Farm, Salcombe Regis. Fifteenth-century thatched house and converted cider house, set in nearly two acres of gardens. Four bedrooms, two en-suite bathrooms, shower-room, sitting room, dining hall, study, and fitted kitchen. Guest wing with bedroom, en-suite bathroom, sitting room/kitchen. Separate cider house with three bedrooms. About £325,000 (Fulford, 01395 578126).

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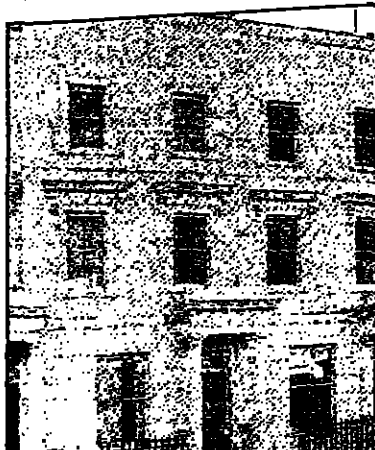
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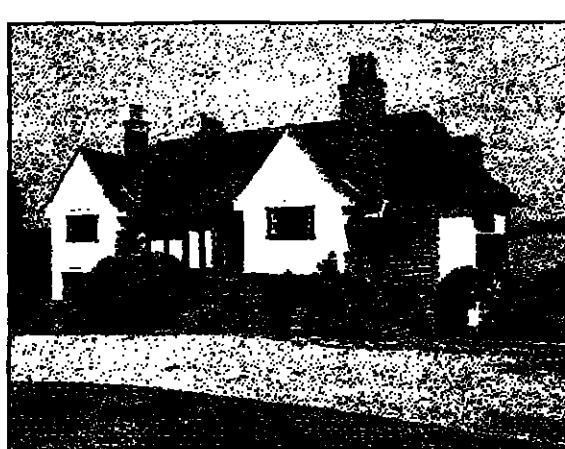
Bexford

An attractive listed house of 15th century origin with delightful views. 6 beds, 2 baths, playrm/bed 7, 2 receps, kit/b fast rm, cellar, garden, outbuildings. About 1 1/2 acres.

JSA: Freeman Forman 01825 766336

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SURREY

Woldingham

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About 2 1/2 acres. JSA: Brace Bidwell Estates 01883 663040.

Price Guide: £650,000

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On the edge of a rural village, a well presented family house with delightful views to the Downs. 5 beds, 2 baths, 3 receps, recep hall, kit/b fast rm, utility rm, 2 detached garages, landscaped gardens.

Price Guide: £245,000

LYMINGTON: 01590 677233



OUTDOORS

15

Mooning over lamb and onions

A half past four one morning I was strolling back from the lambing field and thinking pleasant thoughts. Things are going much better than they were a couple of weeks back. Some of our early lambs were puny things: unborn twins always seemed to be muddled, limbs wrapped around each other in a politically correct but obstetrically lethal embrace that had to be unravelled before they could enter the world. It is not an unpleasant business, unscrumbly twin lambs and seeing them safely born, but I'd rather not bother if I had the choice. It always seems to lead to weakly lambs.

But now things are different. Lambs no longer linger within their mothers but burst into the world, greeting life with a clenched fist, punching into the air and screaming. "Yes! Where's the colostrum? Mine's a pint." I like lambs like that.

Even better are those who do not even waste energy on the expletives but get stuck into the serious business of survival. I spotted a ewe in labour the other morning and kept an eye on her to make sure she did not falter. Shortly

afterwards, a fine lamb slipped into the world. As it was a warm morning I left the ewe to lick it into shape and mother it, and thought I would return in half an hour to help it to its feet and find the nipple. Some help it needed! By the time I got back it was washed as white as something out of a soap-powder commercial, had eaten a full breakfast and, with bloated belly and huge smile, was prancing around the field with such vigour that it took some time to catch it and tag it. More of those, please.

I was fondly remembering that lamb as I strolled to the house, wondering why it was all going so much better than a fortnight ago. Then, for a moment, I switched off the torch and found that for the first time this lambing season I could find my way across the field by the light of the half moon. The moon! Strangely, my next thought was onions.

To explain. Many years ago, we



FARMER'S DIARY: PAUL HEINEY

lived next to a retired farmworker. Will, who grew larger onions than anyone for miles around. People would travel distances to marvel at them but, as far as I know, he never did impart his secret before taking it to the grave. All he ever

said was: "There's nowt special about onions." But the one thing I did learn, from his wife, was that Will would never plant his onion seed on a waning moon. Always

when the moon was growing, and preferably in the first quarter. As I walked back across that field, the moon bright enough to cast a shadow, I thought how silly even to suspect that the arrival of the new moon had somehow influ-

enced the flock. Ridiculous. A truly loony idea.

I slept on it, and woke with the notion still nagging in my mind. I remembered from a casual remark that my neighbour, Farmer White, started calving his fine herd of pedigree South Devon cattle at the same time as my lambing commenced. He, too, reported having an indifferent start to his calving season. I rang him to ask how things were now. He said they had drastically improved, especially in the last fortnight. A remarkable coincidence.

This was swiftly followed by another coincidence, and one with a good scientific basis. A report published by Arizona State University confirmed that lunar phases influence temperatures on earth. Admittedly, not by a lot. The average temperature boost is all of 0.02°C, which would seem hardly enough to convince an old ewe that someone had turned up the heating and now was the time to

release lambs into a warmer world. But, if the moon's phases can alter the temperature, it raises the question of what else they might influence. It may also be that beneath the woolly and insensitive exterior of the sheep lurks a creature far more tuned to the cosmos than we are.

So far there seems to be evidence — scant admittedly — that the fuller the moon, the plumper the lambs and calves. And onions.

Or is it, perhaps, not the ewes who are influenced by the moon but, rather, the old ram who, back in October, got a rush of blood to the head and other vital parts coinciding with a change in the moon? Are these vigorous lambs the products of full-moon conception? I shall have to consult my diary and see what evidence I can gather. After all, old Will planted his seed according to the moon: as far as I know he did not allow it to affect his harvesting date. I am now collecting data. Expect to hear more on this subject.

By the way, as I write the moon is still waxing and this column seems to have turned out longer than usual. Well, there you are.

Why Doris and Naomi are such perfect swine

The farmer shook his head and sucked in his breath sharply. He couldn't possibly put his machinery over our scrubby paddock. "Two wouldn't do it any good at all," he said. "What you need is a couple of pigs. They'd turn it over in no time. And you'd have something for the freezer." As far as he was concerned it was as simple as that.

And so, several months later, there I was leaning over the newly erected fence proudly showing off my pigs to the same farmer. He was very nearly impressed. I could see that. "It's a nice sight seeing pigs grubbing about like that as they should be," he said. "Pigs are nice animals."

It was my idea that, instead of giving each other the usual perfume and aftershave at Christmas, my husband and I should buy each other a pig. And, after consulting a book with photographs and descriptions of the old English pig varieties, he set his heart on a Berkshire: a black pig with white markings on the face, feet and tip of the curly tail.

The Berkshire is one of seven breeds of pig being monitored by the Rare Breeds Survival Trust, whose survey shows that, although the number of registered Berkshires increased slightly last year, there are only a few hundred left, and that the breed remains on the endangered list.

As well as having attractive markings, the Berkshire is a hardy pig particularly suited to living outdoors. Ideal for us. So, in the middle of the Christmas preparations, I had the job of tracking some down. Surprisingly, that was the easy part. I found a smallholder who breeds Berkshires, and he spent an hour or so showing us the pigs and taking us through what we would need. We retired to the village pub to consider the options and sound out local opinion. There was one setback: our land is clay, which is not good for pigs, and everyone thought we were mad. But we decided to press ahead.

A few weeks later we were back in the muddy field chasing piglets in an attempt to find a pair of suitable gilts (female pigs who have not had a litter). Watching from the safety of the Land Rover, our children — Freddie, 13, Lauren, 11, and Tom, seven — were highly amused, especially when a father's favourite cap (a fashionable accessory he considers essential for country living) disappeared into the mud and, in an unseemly tussle for ownership, the pig won.

When we finally caught our two, they were heaved into the back of the Land Rover protesting loudly, like the proverbial stuck pig. The smell was appalling, and we were forced, even though it was winter, to drive with the windows open.

By the time we got home — 25 acres on the Kent-Sussex border — the children had plucked up the courage to stroke the animals, who were by now sitting up in the back like a couple of labradors watching the world go by through the rear window.

Another struggle ensued as the pigs were persuaded out of the car and into their new

Buying a couple of pigs to grub out the paddock is one thing, managing them is another

enclosure. Doris (my pig — I'm an Archers fan) and Naomi (my husband's — on the grounds that she is big, black and beautiful like the supermodel) had arrived.

We had made considerable preparations. Fencing had been the first problem. Our reference book contained dire warnings about pigs' capabilities of excavation. Apparently they make the stars of *The Great Escape* look positively amateurish, so we opted for electric fencing, which does not come cheaply, to enclose about a quarter of an acre, including a couple of trees.

The next difficulty was housing. Everyone we meet with even the remotest connections with farming tells us that there



They were sitting up in the back of the car like a couple of labradors watching the world go by

are pig arcs lying about in fields all over the country just waiting for people like us. Well, we are still looking. The manufacturers of pig arcs are scarce these days, particularly as pigs have fallen victim to intensive farming methods, and are often kept in conditions similar to veal calves. (You are unlikely to have heard about that though, as animal rights activists have their work cut out demonstrating about animals such as doctored calves and sheep.)

I found one manufacturer near Chichester, in West Sussex, and another near Birmingham; both wanted nearly £200 for one arc, enough to buy another six pigs. So we improvised and, unwisely ignoring the experience of the three little pigs and the big bad wolf, built a pig house of straw bales with some bits of corrugated roofing and a tarpaulin.

Doris and Naomi liked their new home so much that within days they began to treat it like a toy. They pushed, pulled,

rolled and generally behaved like football hooligans. Soon I was having to spend a half-hour each morning and evening putting the bales of straw back together again so that they would have some shelter from the rain and wind.

Then, one morning, we found they had trashed every bale, resulting in a heap of debris. Weekend plans were abandoned while we toured scrap yards, and with frantic cursing, tried to construct a new house before dark.

Now there is a deluxe pig house of unusual shape made from an above-ground swimming pool, ten chestnut stakes and two irregular pieces of tin roofing. And it has a neat little window in the front where the pool pump was meant to go.

So Doris and Naomi are happily settled. How do we know? Because pigs are said to be the most intelligent of farmyard animals and anyone seeing them in such natural conditions can be in no doubt.

They quickly established their own routine. Breakfast is expected before nine, and if it's late their protests can be heard half a mile away. After that they retire for a nap and then, weather permitting, come out to forage and play, romping about like a couple of puppies. Another nap, more grubbing about and then supper at about four o'clock.

In between times, anyone who goes within sound or smell they have poor eyesight of their enclosure is summoned loudly. They love having their ears and chins rubbed, and fall to the floor grunting in ecstasy for anyone who will scratch their tummies.

The pigs have attracted lots of visitors who, without exception, tell us they will always be pets and we'll never be able to kill and eat them. We tell them that we have no intention of eating Naomi and Doris, and that we are going to eat their babies. Reaction is divided between sheer horror and orders for suckling pig to be served at summer barbecues.

Our next problem is finding a suitable mate. We heard that there was a Berkshire boar at a local prison farm, but do we really want our girls mixing with such company? Fate intervened and we spotted an advertisement for a Pig Workshop at the Rare Breeds Centre in Woodchurch, Kent.

There, with a small group of like-minded "pig people", we learnt the rudiments of pig-keeping from the experts. After a morning of theory, dwelling mainly on the many pitfalls, veterinary and otherwise, we moved to the practical. This included a demonstration of artificial insemination, ear clipping, teeth cutting and all the practicalities of rearing young pigs.

Most importantly for us, we discovered that the trust has a Berkshire boar. He has a very grand pedigree name but is known to his friends as Sid, and we have arranged that, in the next few weeks, Naomi and Doris will be going a-cowling.

If all goes well, we will be going from two to about 32 pigs overnight, and then our problems will really start.

ANNE-MARIE SAPSTED

Saving our best bacon

THE Rare Breeds Survival Trust was founded in 1973 to help to prevent the further extinction of British farm animals. The trust supports more than 40 endangered species, including seven different breeds of pig.

On the critical list are the British Lop, Large Black, Middle White and Tamworth. On the endangered list are the Berkshire, British Saddleback and Gloucester Old Spot.

Rare bloodlines of Tamworth, Large Black, British Saddleback and Berkshire pigs, which were previously exported and are now extinct in Britain, have recently been located in Australia. The trust is selecting pigs from 20 bloodlines in these four breeds to import to strengthen and widen the genetic base of each breed.

In the case of the Berkshire, there are only five male lines and eight female lines left in Britain.

Although Berkshire pigs are mainly black in colour, the meat dresses out completely white and has a high lean-meat yield, which is noted for its texture and flavour.

● The Rare Breeds Survival Trust, National Agricultural Centre, Kenilworth, Warwickshire CV8 2LG (01203 696551).



Anne-Marie Sapsted with her two Berkshire piglets. If breakfast is late, the protests can be heard half a mile away

Feather Report

Spring's black beauties of song

AS USUAL, spring is creeping up on us, then startling us with sudden changes. Last week, the most dramatic event was the outbreak of blackbird song. After the warm weekend, half the blackbirds of Britain immediately began singing.

They have been most noticeable in the evenings. In the dusk, in both town and country, the air has been full of their mellow notes. You see the birds silhouetted on top of a wall or at the end of a branch, head lifted and beak open.

I always think of the blackbird's song as a sort of *Bridgeshead Revisited* performance — elegant but very lazy. Each phrase begins with loud, fluting notes, rich and dreamy. Then boredom seems to seize the singer and the phrase collapses into a few half-hearted, almost squawking sounds. A moment later, out flows the song again in all its beauty.

Blackbirds are also singing at sunrise, adding their voices to the dawn chorus, which is beginning to wake people up. In gardens, wrens, robins, chaffinches, great tits, song thrushes, mistle thrushes and starlings are the other main contributors at present.

One might mistake a mistle thrush for a blackbird, since it too begins with a loud, clear burst of song and ends more lamely. But with

the mistle thrush, the first notes are wild and heroic, while the end of each phrase is more abrupt, as though the singer has been alarmed, or even shot.

The starlings have been

MARY EVANS



A starling's song can be quite lyrical

singing for some time, but their rattles and whistles are often interrupted now by a quite lyrical snatch of song. The males are looking more spectacular than they did in the winter. Their beaks have turned lemon-yellow, and the grey and buff tips to their feathers have worn away, so that they have become black and glossy, particularly on the crown and underparts.

Some pairs of starlings are already starting to build their nests in holes in trees or under roofs. There have been reports of them tearing the fibre-glass insulation from under the tiles of

houses for use as nest material — and, in their clumsy way, leaving most of each beakful scattered in yellow patches on the lawn.

Away from the gardens, there is more delightful song to be heard. Along the country lanes, the yellowhammers are coming into full voice — calling, supposedly, for "a little bit of bread and no cheese". They sing this merry trill with its wheezing conclusion from conspicuous song posts, on the top spray of an oak or hawthorn.

No bird could be more of a hedgerow bird and, in spite of the destruction of many hedges, they are still a flourishing species. Perhaps this is because they are willing to nest in very low hedges, provided the foliage is dense enough.

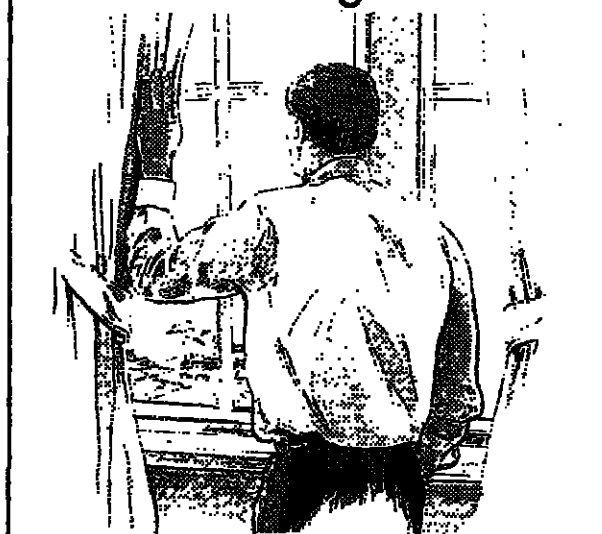
Their eggs, which will be laid next month, are covered with scrawls like the incomprehensible graffiti on walls alongside railway lines. These decorations have earned them the rural name of "scribes".

DERWENT MAY

● What's about: Birds — listen for chaffinches singing everywhere. Twitchees — little bunting at Colchester, Essex: ring-necked duck at Leeds: spotted crane at Strimlinghouse, Kent. Details from Birdline (0891 700222). Calls cost 40p a minute cheap rate, 50p at all other times.

● Robin Jacques is away.

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TRAVEL

17

ADVENTURE: Man versus marlin in Kenya; plus where to get wet, wet, wet in a global guide to whitewater rafting

Size really does matter

Every angler capable of exaggeration wants to catch a big one. Every angler who has watched big-game boats rearing like white stallions through a tropical swell has toyed with the notion of catching the biggest one of all.

The image of the marlin — its speed, its power, its size and its aerobics — seizes the angling mind like an electric shock. The offer of a real chance of catching one was irresistible. Close encounters with the biggest fish Africa has to offer had been in my brain-tub of ambitions since childhood.

The marlin came ten miles off the Kenyan coast and about 20 miles south of Mombasa. Peter Ruysenaars, who owns the Pemba Channel Fishing Club and who has fished for big-game all his life, had done his best to prepare me. He talked me through the routine as his beautiful *White Oter* nosed into the silk-grey dawn at Shimoni.

We would have six rods up. The fish would strike one of them. I would lift that rod from its socket over the gunwhale and take it to the fighting chair that was bolted to the deck. I would slip the rod into the separate holder there and be harnessed in. The massive, brass Penn International reel that held half a mile of line would be chained to the seat either side of me. And then I would fight the fish. It all seemed pretty straightforward.

I did not see the strike when, in a 12ft swell over 2,000ft of water, it came. I had become absorbed by the lift and slide and roll of *White Oter* and the innermost workings of my stomach. The horizon had tilted and the sun had burned. The six great, trolled lures had bored white tunnels through the wave tops behind us and splashed and rolled like stricken fish.

Then I heard the shout and glimpsed a fin cutting the water like a wetted scythe. All hell broke loose. My rehearsed composure was gone. Somehow they turned the boat, got the other lines out of the way, and me into the chair buckled and clipped like a fighter pilot in his cockpit, but the fish was already miles away, splintering the waves, and the skipper was yelling "Reel. Bwana. Reel!"

Yet still, in the heaving, hand-blistering 25 minutes that followed I experienced

everything that has made the marlin famous. I felt the seering runs and the incredible leaps and heard the bomb-like re-entries through channels of spray. I saw the fish's stripes and fins glow neon-blue as we drew it nearer. I saw the fish's black bill and the crewman's arm reaching forward for the line and heard the click as the hook came free. I saw the fish drift loosely for a moment as though for final inspection and then smash open the surface and dive away.

It was a striped marlin, about nine-feet long from tip of bill to fork of tail, and it would have weighed about 150lb. A gigantic marlin it was not, but a marlin it was and a long-held ambition achieved.

Another ambition lay to the south and west beyond Kilimanjaro. Oliver's Camp, on the edge of the Tarangire National Park in Tanzania, is unusual in many ways. One is the sensitivity with which its permanently pitched tents, each with its own separate latrine and bucket shower, have been sited in a cluster of trees.

Another is that Paul Oliver and Jim Howitt, the two young Englishmen who run it, have acquired exclusive safari rights over hundreds of square miles of breathtaking terrain. The result is not nose-to-tail caravans but animals putting on a private, personalised show.

The camp is on the migration route for animals heading for the nearby Tarangire River. In two days I saw most of the big game for which Africa is known, except lion and leopard. I experienced the frisson of a walk through the bush: watched a sick buffalo stumble in blind circles near a waterhole while vultures circled on the thermals overhead; and, in the Tarangire Park, a cow elephant that looked as though she would charge gained my attention exclusively for what seemed an age.

I caught up with the leopard and the lion in the Ngongoro Crater.

BRIAN CLARKE

● The author was a guest of Pemba Channel Fishing Club (British telephone number 01334 475294) and African Explorations (01993 822443), who organised the safari. The marlin season is from August to April. Prices, tailored to individual requirements, from the operators.



If you fancy yourself as a Meryl Streep, the world is your whitewater oyster, from South America to Scotland, although this is not a sport for the faint of heart or the queasy of stomach

All aboard for a white-knuckle ride

An old repainted school bus clatters down the canyon road trailing a haze of dust. At the bottom, the crowd gathers around a long-haired, lifejacketed guide who will brief them on what to expect over the next few days. Wetsuits are donned as the river roars by. The sound of air wheezing into inflatable rubber rafts blends with the chirping of canyon wrens and instructions on how to float safely downstream if you fall out of the boat. A typical beginning to a whitewater rafting adventure.

Whitewater rafting emerged in America in the 1970s and, since then, the technology and accessibility of the sport have grown enormously. But because Britain has few rivers wide enough to float a big rubber raft, it's taken the British a little longer to discover it. So here is a brief guide to some whitewater basics, as well as the premier places in the world to get wet.

All commercially rafted rivers offer an adrenaline rush, but some are more thrilling than others. Most rivers have big rapids followed by flat sections that give you a break

in the action. When choosing a trip, check the ratings of the rapids and whether the river has continuous drops. The usual system classifies rapids from one to six — six effectively being unraftable — but an international system, used on a handful of rivers, runs from one to ten, with grade ten equivalent to a class six.

Another thing to check is how to get your boat downstream. Either it will be in an ear-powered boat, like the one Meryl Streep runs in *The River Wild*, where the guide does all the work. Or, more commonly and certainly much more challenging, you and your crew do the paddling, with the guide navigating and shouting out commands.

Expect to sign a "risk release" form acknowledging that you are aware of the risks involved. But be sure there is on-board training and instructions on safety, and inquire about your prospective guide's experience: some countries, such as Austria, require a national qualification, but most rely on the rafting companies to ensure their guides' competence.

Ask about the company's safety policy and what its insurance covers.

The world's wildest whitewater is in Africa. A one-day trip on the Zambezi River, separating Zambia and Zimbabwe, begins dramatically, just below Victoria Falls. Most trips are oar-powered, but you'll still need to work, throwing your weight around the boat to keep it from flipping over. The season runs from July to December.

Enthusiasts seeking longer, more rugged trips might look to South America. Rafting on the Futaleufu River (the 'fu') in Patagonia, Chile, has been described as floating on jewellery. The turquoise water is fed by rain and snow melt and flows through high walls of granite and lush countryside. You won't see many others on this ten-day, class five river journey: Earth River Expeditions is the only company that runs commercial trips there. The season is from December to April.

A trip through the Grand

Canyon on the Colorado River is the perfect way to see this geological landmark. Canyon Expeditions runs trips lasting ten to 14 days, with plenty of time for hikes in the Canyon. It also has five to nine-day trips. Most are oar-powered, and this is one of the few rivers where there are motorised raft trips. The season is late spring to late autumn.

Adrift has a ten-day trip on the upper Cornub in Turkey, which offers not only rapids, but castles and ruins. The first five days of the trip are spent rafting. This year the season runs from the end of May to the beginning of August.

On the other side of the world, the Tully River near Cairns is the most popular rafting spot in Australia. A narrow and technical descent, this international grade four to five river goes from temperate to near-tropical rain forest. Raging Thunder offers multi-day trips there. The drought in the last few years has provided some challenging ways of getting downstream.

Drive three hours north-east of Los Angeles and you are a world away from its urban sprawl. The Forks of the Kern, fed by snow melt and govern-

ment designated as a "wild and scenic" river, is amazingly remote and beautiful. Outdoor Adventures organises trips there. After hiking down a two-mile trail, you begin a three-day, continuous class four and five rapids trip. The season starts in early May and should last into late July.

Closer to home, probably the best and most safety-conscious rafting in Europe is in Austria on the River Inn. Starting in the town of Imst and rafting to Heiming, there are numerous companies running one-day trips (class two to three). Further upstream and flowing into the Inn is the Oetzeller Ache, a more continuous, glacial-fed class four run. The season runs from late May to late July.

And if you want to try out whitewater at home, there is a 500-metre man-made slalom course at Holmepierre Pont, near Nottingham, fed by the River Trent. There is also a short class three to four section on the River Tay in Scotland which is run all year. It won't match the Zambezi or the 'fu', but it will get you started.

ANNEMARIE CARACCILO

Fact file

□ One-day trips on the Zambezi cost around £50 and are offered locally by Sobek in Zambia, and Sheerwater in Zimbabwe. It is best to contact the companies when you get there. Advance bookings not necessary.

□ A ten-day trip on the Futaleufu with a group of up to 15 costs about £1,300 per person, available through Contact Earth River Expeditions in America (001 914 626 2665).

□ Grand Canyon: Canyon Expeditions (001 602 779 3769). Trips on the Colorado start at \$1,000 (£650).

□ Upper Cornub, Turkey: contact Adrift (0181-874 4969).

□ Tully River, Australia: contact Raging Thunder (0061 70 514911). Around £50 per day.

□ Kern River, California: Outdoor Adventures (001 415 663 8300). Trips start from \$575 (£370).

□ Holmepierre Pont: contact Current Trends (0115 9818844). A two-hour session for a group of up to eight costs £79 plus VAT.

□ For advice on whitewater rafting in North, Central and South America, contact Whitewater Information, run by Annemarie Caracciolo, on 0171-386 9904.

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18

TRAVEL

SPAIN: Rioja is famed for its vines, but there is much else besides

ANTHONY BLAKE



This landlocked region of northern Spain is a popular holiday destination for Spaniards with its fine wine, skiing, scenery and exquisite cuisine

We're not just here for the wine

To the world at large
Rioja, the farming
region of northern
Spain, is just a by-
word for wine, but to the
Spaniards who make it their
holiday destination it holds
much more: one of the country's
lesser-known ski resorts,
Romanesque monasteries hidden
in deep wooded valleys,
colonnaded village squares
whose outdoor cafés overflow
well past midnight, spectacular
scenery and some of
Spain's most exquisite cuisine.

My companion, Helen, and
I began our journey in the
village of Ezcaray on the
banks of the Rio Oja (hence
"Rioja"), where the Hotel
Echaurren is hallowed ground
to the Spanish gourmet. The
hotel has been serving meals
to travellers for 300 years and
the current chef, Marisa Echaurren,
holds Spain's National
Gastronomy Award.

Anyone weary of the French
obsession with meat twice a
day will find a refreshing
choice of fish dishes (Spain
has, after Japan, the world's
highest per capita consumption
of seafood) trucked in

daily to this landlocked region
from the ports of Galicia and
the neighbouring Basque
Country.

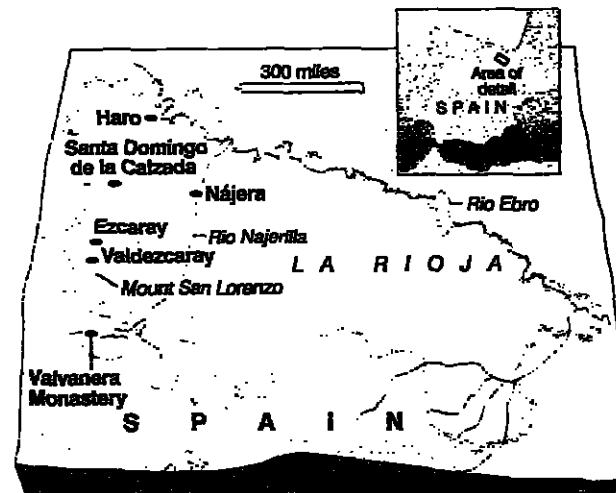
Dried cod stewed with olive
oil, onions, garlic and red
pepper is a specialty known
as *bacalao a la riojana*, while
haddock in a green sauce, or
merluza en salsa verde, is
another. There are normally
half a dozen or more fish
dishes on the Echaurren
menu. As in most good restaurants,
expect to pay about £30
for two for an excellent three-
course meal with a bottle of
house Rioja and coffee.

Ezcaray is an ideal base for
day trips to nearby sites. The
Valdecaray ski resort is ten
miles to the south and, with a
reasonable winter snowfall,
there are some challenging
runs on the slopes of the 7,000-
foot Mount San Lorenzo. While
smaller and not as developed
as French or Austrian
ski resorts, it is less crowded
than the Spanish
Pyrenees or Sierra Nevada.

Santo Domingo de la
Calzada lies the same distance
north of Ezcaray. The village's
lovely *Parador Nacional* has
existed in one form or another
since the High Middle Ages as
a hostel for travellers on the
pilgrim's route to Santiago de
Compostela. A feature of the
11th-century cathedral is a live
cock, kept in a cage as a
reminder of how Santo Domingo
brought his dinner
back to life to prove to a
distracted village youth that
lost love could be rekindled.

One of La Rioja's hidden
treasures, which I had failed to
discover on previous visits, is
Valvanera Monastery. The
Benedictine monks of this
mountain sanctuary provide
comfortable lodgings and super-
food for £50 per night for
two, full board included.

Valvanera is an hour and a
half south of Ezcaray up a
twisting mountain road that in
itself makes the journey
worthwhile. The rugged peaks
of the Sierra de la Demanda
that tower above vineyards



Fact file

- The author flew to
Bilbao on British Airways
(0181-897 4000). The return
fare from Heathrow is £119
until March 31. Thereafter
it is £299, but reduced fares are
normally available. Iberia
(0171-830 0011) also operates
daily flights to Bilbao at
competitive rates.
- A double room at the
Valvanera Monastery (010 34
41 377 194) costs £24 per
night. Full board £15 per
person per day extra.
- A double room at the
Hotel Echaurren (010 34 41 354
047) costs £35 per night.
Full board £18 per person per
day extra.



Valvanera Monastery

- A double room at the
Santo Domingo de la Calzada
Parador (010 34 41 340 300)
is £65 per night. Full board
£32 per person per day
extra.
- Car hire (A class) for one
week costs £104.25.

and lush orchards make it a
pleasure to slow down and let
the tractor and hay cart in
front set the pace, thus avoid-
ing the Civil Guard's speeding
fines of up to £250, payable on
the spot.

We arrived at lunchtime to
find a bottle of Rioja on our
table, complimentary with
meals. The afternoon was
spent strolling alongside the
Rio Najerilla about 500 feet
below the monastery, and we
later curled up with our books
in the sunlit Gothic archway,
listening to the bells of the
16th-century church tower
chiming away the hours.

At eight o'clock one of the
monks makes his rounds with
a bell, calling the guests to
dinner. Miraculously, our
half-empty bottle of Rioja had
been replaced with an im-
proved full version to accom-
pany a four-course meal
including salad from the mon-
astery garden, fresh borage,

potatoes cooked in olive oil
and baked haddock.

The monks, a relaxed group
as likely to be found strolling
about the monastery gardens
in tracksuits and trainers as in
black robes, run a little souve-
nir shop where you can pick
up a 750cc bottle of their
Benedictine liqueur for £5.

We were saddened to leave
the monastic tranquility of
Valvanera but the next port of
call beckoned: the bodegas of
Haro, the region's wine capi-
tal, which would be a sacrilege
to miss on a visit to La Rioja.

Visitors are welcome in
most wineries between 10am
and 2pm. A simple phone call
in advance will do and the tour
includes a generous wine-
tasting accompanied by local
cheese and Serrano ham.

We chose Bodegas
Muga, one of a
dozen or so
"craftsman" in-
ner-circle wineries whose
reserva and gran reserva win-
tages are produced by tradi-
tional methods and estate-
bottled exclusively.

Isaac Muga, whose father
founded the bodega in 1932,
had some news for us: the first
ever magnums of 1982 Rioja,
hailed as the vintage of the
century, will be available in
Britain later this year.

"The magnum bottle gives
the wine a better life," he said.
"This will help us to enhance
the image of Rioja abroad, and
Britain is a key market."

Stainless steel is shunned in
Bodegas Muga. La Rioja's
only "all-wood" winery. Every
drop of wine is aged in oak
and filtered through egg white
— one of the winery's 26
workers spends his morning
shelling eggs, then filling a
clarification vat with the egg
white.

Later, the car boot filled to
capacity, we drove to Bilbao
airport, thankful for one of the
more sensible EU directives
that has lifted restrictions on
wine. With luck, our cache will
last us until the arrival of the
1982 Muga magnums.

JULES STEWART

Travellers are flooding back into
Egypt but prices have not yet caught up
with demand. During the course of
1994 we were able to secure some
extraordinarily low prices for a superior
product which have been carried over
into 1995. This successful and popular
journey, based on the first-class MS Ra
Nile cruiser, will now be continued for
the majority of this year.

This tour represents extraordinary
value for money since the tariff includes
all meals, transfers, guides and
excursions. If you are looking for a true
escape with that magical combination
of culture and relaxation, then this is
surely an opportunity that should not
be missed.

The MS Ra

Constructed in Britain the MS Ra is
a large purpose-built Nile cruiser that
can accommodate up to 140 passengers.
She is an excellently designed, sleek
vessel offering all the benefits of
modern high technology. The facilities
on board include a large restaurant,
lounge, bar, sun viewing deck with a
swimming pool, jacuzzi, and a small
health club. The cabin accommodation
is bright and airy with large
French-style windows
which open to offer
splendid views of the
banks of the Nile. All the
cabins are fully air-
conditioned and have
private bathrooms.

Itinerary

Day 1 Depart from
London Gatwick in the
morning for Aswan. On
arrival join the MS Ra.
Dinner and overnight on
board.

Day 2 Depart in the
early hours for Edfu and
visit the temple. In the
afternoon sail to Esna.

Day 3 Visit the temple
with its hypostyle halls.
Return to the vessel and
sail to Luxor. In the
afternoon visit the Temple
of Karnak and the Temple
of Luxor.

Day 4 Visit the Valley
of the Kings the west
bank at Thebes and the
Mortuary Temple of
Queen Hatshepsut at Deir
el-Bahari. In the afternoon take a guided
tour of Luxor Museum.

Day 5 Return to the Valley of the
Kings before returning to the MS Ra

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on the MS Ra between
Aswan and Luxor

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quarries of the Pharaohs and the Temple
of Philae.

Day 7 There is an optional morning
excursion by air to Abu Simbel
(bookable locally). Sail by felucca to
Kitchener Island to visit the lush
botanical gardens.

Day 8 Morning at leisure. Transfer
to Aswan airport for the flight back to
London Gatwick.

Departure Dates & Prices

Mondays - per person in a twin

1995		
May 1, 8, 15, 22, 29	£430.00	
June 5, 12, 19, 26	£410.00	
July 3, 10, 17, 24, 31	£395.00	
August 7, 14, 21, 28	£430.00	
September 4, 11, 18, 25	£450.00	
October 2, 9, 16, 23, 30	£485.00	
November 6, 13	£485.00	
November 20, 27	£450.00	
December 4, 11	£395.00	
December 18*	£850.00	

1996		
January 1	£450.00	
January 8, 15	£425.00	
January 22, 29	£450.00	
February 5, 12, 19, 26	£485.00	

* Special Christmas/New Year 14-night departure (17
nights cruise and 7 nights bed and
breakfast at the Old Cataract Hotel, Aswan).

Supplements

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Single rooms	
May to Oct	£95.00
Nov to Feb	£150.00
Dec 18th	£300.00
Middle Deck	£45.00
Upper Deck	£95.00

Price includes: air travel, trans-
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WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 23

GALJOEN

(a) The sea-fish *Coracinus expensis* (family Coracinidae), also
said of several related fish of the family Coracinidae. From
Afrikaans, from the Dutch *galjoen* galleon.

BALIBUNTAL

(a) A fine straw of a very close weave, used for hats, also short
for a *balibuntal* hat. Also *balib* or *bally-buntle*, as one word
or two, also shortened to *balib*. Short for *Baliung buntal*, a
weave of buntal originating from Baliung in Bulacan,
Philippine Islands.

EONISM

(a) Transvestism, especially by a man. From the name of the
Chevalier Charles d'Éon, a French adventurer who wore
women's clothes. *The Times*, 1970: "Today we can see that the
Chevalier was an a-sexual transvestite. From his name
Havelock Ellis coined the term *eonism* to describe this minor
deviation."

ADIPOSIS

(a) Obesity or fatness of the body, also the fatty degeneration of
an organ. Modern Latin from the Ancient Latin *adip*, *adeps*
fat.

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number 38 hit the finish line.
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betting slip "dinner anyone?"
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Last night I was savouring soft shells
at Turkey Joe's waterfront tavern,
where I learnt the arcane secrets of
crab whacking. And just the day
before it was Snowcones, a consolation
prize for failing to checkmate the
 reigning Dupont Circle chess champion.
Tomorrow perhaps I'll lunch on
Bertha's Mussels. Or maybe lash out
on a ballpark chilli dog and see if I'm
better at calling strikes than I am at
calling winning crab!

"We set out across the
Chesapeake Bay in a
sleek Skipjack.
But all we caught
was the sun."

"Coming over the
rise in Virginia,
we were
confronted
by Rebel
forces."

"As we arrived at
Washington D.C.'s
biggest party
we suddenly
felt a little
underdressed."

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TRAVEL

19

WEEKEND BREAKS: Revitalised Prague and Berlin are emerging as 'must' destinations for travellers

Vibrant new rival to Paris

Only a few years ago Prague was memorably described as a "Biafra of the spirit". Today it must rival Paris as the most vibrant capital in Europe. The trendy London listings magazine *Time Out* last month dubbed Prague "the destination for a new generation".

As usual where Europe is concerned, Britain is a late arrival on the scene. An estimated 30,000 young Americans have already made Prague their home.

The privatised Czech airline CSA helps visitors to make the most of a long weekend in the Czech capital. It offers early morning flights from London and late evening return flights, allowing almost four full days there at the cost of only three nights' accommodation.

Our party checked in at the Intercontinental hotel, one of the few modern buildings in the city centre. Of all the hotels it enjoys the best location, with views over the Vltava river to Prague Castle on one side and the picturesque Old Town Square on the other.

Determined not to waste a moment, we headed across the Charles Bridge and up towards the castle. Prague is a city made for walking, though taxis are cheap, trans plentiful and there is an efficient metro. The turn of every corner seems to hold a fresh architectural gem of baroque, Renaissance, rococo, Gothic or art nouveau — all of them often in the same row. Getting lost in the back streets is one of the delights of exploring Prague.

The city elders are determined to keep it that way, and President Václav Havel has led the campaign against the kind of modern development that has marred former Eastern bloc capitals. It is hard to think of any city in Europe that is better preserved.

We arrived at the castle after an hour's leisurely walking. The Czech language appears to interpret the word "castle" loosely. The Prague version is a sprawling series of vast buildings spanning more than 1,000 years of history. A pitance of £2 covers a tour of St Vitus cathedral, the royal palace, an ancient basilica and the magical Lilliputian-style houses of Golden Lane that are so small it is hard to believe they were ever lived in. Yet they were, the magic is real: the medieval alchemists resided there and Franz Kafka later lodged at number 22.

After satiating ourselves on history, a late lunch in a *vinárna* (wine bar) offered plentiful goulash, with the dumplings we were soon to discover were ubiquitous, at less than £1 a plate. We marvelled at the low prices, but old hands talk about 500 per cent inflation since the Velvet Revolution of 1989.

We walked back over Charles Bridge, which is lined

on each side with statues. The bridge is now pedestrianised and populated by folk entertainers of every description. We stopped and bought a numbered, hand-printed etching of the bridge, half a dozen pairs of beautifully hand-crafted dangle ear-rings and leather Red Army surplus belts with huge, hammer-and-sickle brass buckles. Nothing cost more than a few pounds.

For dinner we strolled down to the Old Town Square, dominated by the twin gothic spires of the Tyn church, and entered a restaurant from which the most attractive sounds were emerging — a seven piece Czech version of a Dixieland jazz band.

For the next three days, hooked by Prague's combination of history and vitality, we followed a pattern of sightseeing and walking by day and enjoying music and good food (dumplings apart) by night. Moving experiences included

the Jewish cemetery, where seven centuries of graves are piled one on top of the other, and synagogues which somehow escaped total destruction under the Nazi occupation.

We were drawn back daily to the Charles Bridge, with its atmosphere uniting the old Prague with the street vendors who personify its new-found entrepreneurialism.

We recharged our batteries in the beer halls, including U Fleck, which has been brewing its own delicious dark beer since 1499, and the wine taverns, with their distinctive carved signs in the corners above their entrances.

We enjoyed a spectacular meal at the Hotel Hoffmeister, a new member of the Relais et Châteaux chain, where drawings by the owner's father of famous Europeans of the first half of the century, from Freud to Picasso, cover every spare inch of wall space.

Nights were given over to music. And what sweet music. On the most memorable evening, we started with *Rigoletto* at the State Opera house, 200 years old and all gilt and red plush, went on to the Reduta club for another dose of Czech jazz and blues, and then to a nightclub in one of the many ancient cellars which seem to run for miles under the Old Town Square, where we danced until dawn.

In between, there was dinner and copious quantities of Pilsner, a splendid local red wine called Frankovka, and the local liquor, *becherovka*, sweet and aromatic, made with 13 different herbs and drunk on the rocks. And that was a Sunday night in off-season.

NIGEL WILLIAMSON

● The author was a guest of CSA, whose return flights from London to Prague start at £246, and the Intercontinental Hotel, where double rooms cost from £198 a night.

Café society goes east



First impressions are of glass and concrete, generously landscaped. Berlin is a new city built on old foundations. Starting with a pile of rubble in 1945, Berliners acquired a passion for building and rebuilding. They are still at it today, their vigour renewed by the need to wipe clean the communist desecration of much of the east side and to prepare for the restoration of the city as the capital of a united Germany.

And that is the excitement of Berlin. It is taking shape before your eyes. You can argue about the architecture (everybody does) and the planners' scale of priorities but, for the first-time visitor, there is the ever-present feeling of history in the making.

The two universal symbols of Berlin, the Reichstag and the Brandenburg Gate, are good examples. Both were held in a time warp by the Cold War, being too close to the Wall (the Reichstag on the west, the Brandenburg Gate on the east) to justify wholesale renovation. Now they stand in isolation, each in its own acreage of wasteland, waiting for their rebirth as centrepieces of the new Germany.

I stayed at the Kempinski Hotel on the Kurfürstendamm, known to everyone as the Ku'damm. Created in Bismarck's day to rival the Champs Elysées, the Ku'damm is home to every classy retailer in Europe.

A few steps from the hotel is the Memorial Church. Originally it was a memorial to Kaiser Wilhelm. Then, after the Second World War, what was left of it became a memorial to a lost generation. A truncated steeple, pockmarked by shelling, is partnered by an ultra-modern octagonal church latched with small squares of Rheims glass. The French connection was calculated. It was one of the earliest efforts at reconciliation with the old enemy.

Now, take the S-Bahn, the overland local rail service. There is a station, the Zoologischer Garten, near the Memorial Church. Berlin is a sprawling city but its public transport is efficient and modestly priced. A short-stay season ticket for S-Bahn, U-Bahn (underground trains), buses and trams costs about DM29 (£13) for 72 hours.

Two stops from Zoologischer Garten will get you to Friedrichstraße. From here it is a short walk to the Reichstag. On the far bend of the River Spree is one of the few remaining sections of the infamous Wall, which once stretched 27 miles across the city. This was a favoured crossing point for would-be escapees. Those who did not make it are named on white wooden crosses hanging from a wire screen, a memorial touching in its simplicity.

From the far side of the Reichstag (now closed to visitors), the Brandenburg Gate is clearly visible across a stretch of sparsely foliated parkland. A few more steps and you are in what was East Berlin on

Unter den Linden main boulevard. The change is not immediately perceptible, though the line-up of peddlers with their trays of army hats and other remnants of a disgraced regime, suggests a back-to-basics economy.

The area on both sides of the Unter den Linden is thick with historical associations. Hitler's bunker was close by. Not that you'll see it. It is under a block of luxury flats, originally intended for senior Communist officials. What is in evidence is the Hohenzollern heritage — the Opera House, the Armoury, the Catholic Cathedral and five museums, including the Pergamon which opens on to the full frontage of a Greek temple, the Pergamon Altar.

Many of the buildings have an authentic 18th or 19th century look but don't let that fool you. The bombing here was as ferocious as anywhere in Berlin. The damage left only heavyweight facades. What is behind the facades is an entirely modern reconstruction, a prestige operation by the East German government which deserves credit. In contrast is the perfectly dreadful Palace of the Republic, a white marble and brown glass block which served as Party headquarters and a leisure centre. Built in 1973, its span as a working building was cut short by asbestos poisoning. The East Germans were not too good on environmental matters — old Trabants still rumble about, belching exhaust.

Despite its problems, there is an infectious energy and optimism to East Berlin. Even the old Jewish quarter is reviving. Little bars and cafés are alive with debate. Unbridled consumerism, a familiar feature of the west side is beginning to shape up on Friedrichstraße, the boulevard once intersected byCheckpoint Charlie.

Relaxing, it is not. But you do not come to Berlin for peace and quiet. Apart from exploration (I was given a good start by Nicholas Gay, an Englishman who organises guided walks), there is a wealth of entertainment to occupy the evenings. Look out for the *Kneipen* — a collective term for cafés bars where, after a couple of drinks, you qualify



The Memorial Church, dedicated to a lost generation, seen through a piece of modern sculpture

as a regular. Language is no barrier. Berliners seem to know most of them.

Near the Kempinski Hotel, there is a rich selection of *Kneipen*, including the fashionable Paris Bar and Heinz Holl. My favourite is a little further away, the Café Einstein (Kurfürstendamm 57). From the outside it looks like a private house. Once inside, it is like going back to the café society of the 1920s. Everybody seems to know everybody, and if they don't, they soon will.

BARRY TURNER

Getting there

□ The author was a guest of Crystal Premier Cities.

□ Prices for a two-night stay at the Hotel Kempinski start from £355 per person including return scheduled flights. B&B accommodation and arrival transfer.

□ For further information and reservations call Crystal Premier Cities (0181 390 9900).

□ Nicholas Gay for Guided Tours in English can be contacted in Berlin on 00 49 30 2116663.

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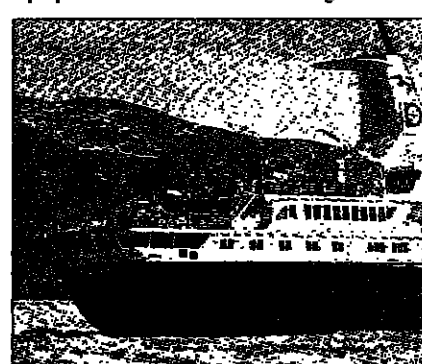
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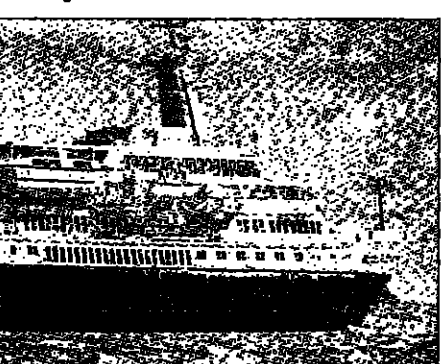
Her classification is +AF+AMS ICE for unrestricted passenger service by the American Bureau of Shipping. The 'World Discoverer' also fulfils all laws and regulations of the Danish State Ship Inspection and the US Coast Guard and is commanded by European Officers.

On board, there is accommodation for just over 130 passengers and all cabins and suites have outside views with private showers and toilet. Furnished throughout to first class standards, there are spacious public areas including two lounges, library, and a single sitting dining room.

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Reef comes to grief

The time I did not swim with a shark is as memorable as the time I was charged by an elephant. I am reminded of that today with the opening at Olympia of the London International Dive Show.

The elephant was in Malawi, a bull exercising his paternal interest over a small herd of about a dozen cows with their calves. I and a party of pink-and-permed Americans were in a Land Rover. The bull took exception to us and charged, head down, ears back, trunk flailing. Twenty yards away he trumpeted to a halt, three tonnes of indignation standing on the brakes in a massive flurry of dust.

The shark was — or rather wasn't — off Grand Cayman Island. I was about to make my first dive since qualifying on a scuba course. After days of high winds, the sea was settling and visibility would stretch to about 15 metres — almost murky for the Caribbean. "Just the condition for sharks," our dive master said. The excitement among the other divers would have registered on a voltmeter. The frisson aroused by the chance of seeing a hammerhead off the 24,000ft Cayman Wall was as sharp as the recollection of gazing at a stampeding elephant in an African game

park. The parallels do not end there. All the pressures and protection that have been exerted on wildlife sanctuaries above sea level are now being applied under water. The scenario is familiar: wilderness areas, teeming with animals, have been added to the tourist hit list with all its attendant perils. Only here we are talking not about rainforests or savannahs but coral reefs.

Reefs and rainforests have much in common. They have both taken a long time to grow — thousands of years in the case of reefs; both contain a spectacular variety of creatures, animate and inanimate, and do a favour to the atmosphere by absorbing carbon dioxide.

Reef fish are a valuable local source of food; they are also beautiful beyond imagination, far more so than birds. They are more brilliantly coloured and, because a swimmer shares their element, much easier to watch. Fish come to see you: they are the twitchers.

They, and the splendour of the coral, have launched reefs into tourism's best-sellers list.

something made possible by the increasing accessibility of holidays in the tropics. In many parts of the world, reefs are now far more valuable economically for their tourism than as fishing grounds.

But a reef, for all its resilience as a "barrier" against high seas and hurricanes (another of its benefits) is a delicate organism when it comes to man. Anchors dropped on them from boats, jetties and moorings built into them, divers and snorkellers breaking them and souvenir hunters plundering them are obvious threats, though not necessarily the most serious.

Increased activity in the sea will stir up sediments that choke the living coral. Over-fishing, often to satisfy tourism's demand, will lead to the spread of suffocating algae. So does the contamination of nutrients such as sewage.

The setting up of marine parks is part of the answer, though they are not a lot of use if they don't control what happens on the coast as well. And unless they are properly managed, all they will do is

attract more people who, increasingly, are equipping themselves to explore the reefs at close quarters.

The Professional Association of Diving Instructors, the California-based organisation which trains more than half the world's new recreational divers, has certificated nearly six million people. The numbers are growing by an average 14 per cent a year.

Reefs off Hawaii and Florida have been severely damaged by diving, and there are now so many divers in the Red Sea that at Egypt's Ras Mohammed National Park, "police" in plain clothes — well, wet suits, presumably — are joining dives anonymously. Anyone seen damaging the coral is reprimanded.

In Britain, the Marine Conservation Society at Ross-on-Wye, Herefordshire, has felt it necessary to publish a code of reef behaviour.

The 12,000 visitors expected at this weekend's London International Dive Show should remember that this is one area of holidaymaking where the future lies not so much with the big, bad tourist industry as in the hands of little, ignorant tourists.

● London International Dive Show, Olympia: today, 9.30am-6pm; tomorrow, 9.30am-5pm. Adult £6, child £1.50.



PETER HUGHES



The fish, and the splendour of the coral, have put the reefs on tourism's best-sellers list — and in danger

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IN BRITAIN

□ Chocoholics not satisfied with one egg hidden behind the sofa will appreciate a weekend break at The Hyatt Regency Hotel, Birmingham (0121 443 1234). The stay includes accommodation, breakfast, dinner, a tour of Cadbury World showing the history of chocolate, and chocolate treats throughout the weekend, after which you may feel the need to use the gym and sauna. Breaks available year round, including Easter. From £65 per adult per night sharing a double room, £25.25 per child sharing with parents.

□ The Youth Hostel Association's Activity Centre at Edale in the Peak District (01433 670302) offers an antidote to boredom with a five-day break starting on April 17 for

children aged 12 to 15. £158 including full board, instruction and use of equipment for canoeing, climbing, abseiling, archery and hillwalking.

□ Families can go rural, and rent self-catering accommodation on working farms in Devon, Cornwall and Somerset from Farm and Cottage Holidays (01237 479698). Easter week (April 15-22) in the Woodpecker apartment (sleeping four) at Thorne Manor farm, north Devon, costs £191, including use of swimming pool, adventure playground, fishing lake and games room.

□ Narrow-boat enthusiasts might stay at the Chester

Moat House Hotel (0645 213214) April 14-17, and visit Chester Boat Museum's "Boaters Gathering" featuring vintage narrow boats and traditional crafts. £58 per adult per night including breakfast, dinner and museum tickets. Children's discounts available.

□ Find your summer sea-legs by pottering around the inland waterways. Cast off with Blakes Boating Holidays (01603 782911). £324 for Easter week on a cruiser on the Norfolk Broads.

□ Tee off at The Welcombe Hotel & Golf Course at Stratford-upon-Avon (01789 295252). Easter golf weekends start from £195 per person, including two nights accommodation (Good Friday and Saturday), breakfast, dinner and 36 holes of golf. Complimentary accommodation (only) offered for a third (Sunday) night. Or forsake the fairways and opt for the country house weekend, at £175 per person, with free admission to Warwick Castle and one local National Trust property. The hotel can arrange visits to Royal Shakespeare Company productions.

OVERSEAS

□ Stand in St Peter's Square when the Pope delivers his Easter message. Cititalia (0181 686 5533) has four-day breaks in Rome departing April 13. £460 per person including flights and B&B at the 3-star Pace Helvezia hotel.

□ But if you want to avoid cities, think about Lake Maggiore, or Taormina in Sicily.

The Magic of Italy (0181 748 7575) will whisk you to the 3-star Hotel Cannero on Lake Maggiore for three nights, from £325; or to the 3-star Hotel Isabella at Taormina for five nights, from £369. Depart April 13 or 14. Price includes flights from Gatwick and half-board accommodation.

□ Nip across the Channel to see if Paris in the spring is all it's cracked up to be. Rent a self-catering studio or apartment from Residences Chez Nous (01484 680865) for a long weekend. Prices include £24 per person per night in an apartment for four near Sacré Coeur; and £50 per person per night for four people sharing an apartment in Boulevard Haussmann near the Arc de Triomphe.

□ Scuba dive in the warm waters of the Red Sea at Hurghada, in Egypt. Twickers World/Red Sea Holidays (0181 892 7606) will fly you there on Easter Saturday, April 15, returning Sunday, April 23. From £305 per adult in the small Whitehouse hotel, to £449 at the Sonesta Beach Resort. Both half-board.

□ Visit the Hermitage Museum in St Petersburg. Cox & Kings (0171 873 5002) has a three-night Easter tour departing April 13. Prices from £690 per person, including return

flights, accommodation and breakfast at the Marco Polo Nevsky Palace Hotel.

□ When in Amsterdam, the 3-star Tulip Inn seems an obvious place to stay. Allez France (0903 742345) will arrange two nights B&B from £107 per person including ferry via Dunkerque or Ostend, and a canal trip in Amsterdam. Extra nights £40. One child under 12 free when sharing with parents. Price (until the end of April) based on four adults per car.

SKIING

□ Ski 3000 (01223 302747) has cut £100 from the price of its Easter Singles Week (for skiers in their thirties and forties) at the chalet Floride in Val d'Isère. Departing on April 15, the new price of £384 per person includes return flights, and seven nights half-board.

□ Why not go north to Norway with NSR Travel (0171 930 6666). Prices from £468 for eight nights in Voss, including half-board accommodation, return flights from Gatwick or Newcastle to Bergen. Departing April 9. Children's discounts available. Easter packages also available at Lillehammer, Hemsedal and Geilo.

□ Impress your friends by snowboarding instead of schlussing. White Roc Ski (0171 792 1188) will show you how. From £385 per person for three nights in Megeve Switzerland including flights London/Geneva, car hire and B&B apartment accommodation. Six hours private snowboard instruction and three days' hire of snowboard will cost from £105.

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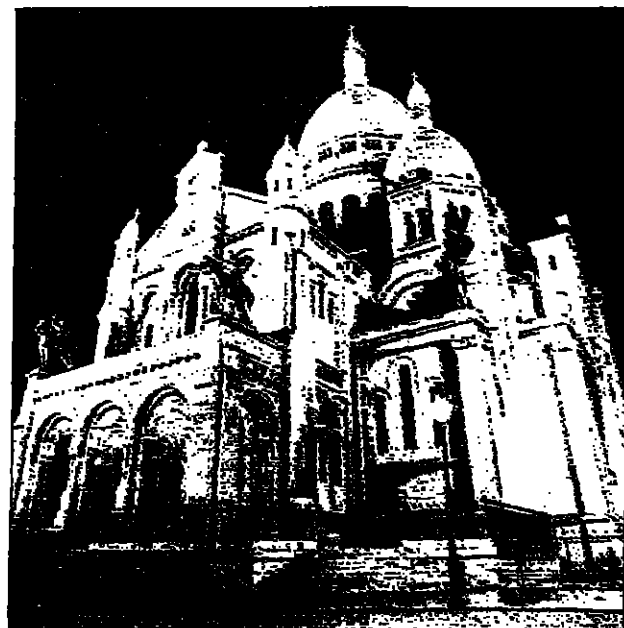
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TRAVEL

21

EXETER: Underground passages lure visitors into their haunted, medieval depths Down among the ghosts and ghouls

In Exeter, men in their eighties still talk excitedly about their boyhood initiation into the city's dark, shadowy underworld. In those days, grown-ups with lurching, lumpy bodies and lurid tales of smugglers and buried treasure, of monks and midnight trysts.

Four years ago, the city fathers decided that Exeter's lowlife was too good a secret to keep to themselves. So part of the city's two-mile system of medieval underground passages was adapted into a modern tourist attraction.

Now, more and more children are hauling their parents there to hear guides tell of ghosts, rats and vile plagues. Since the days of Grandad's unofficial visits, only the stories have grown taller for the 25,000 visitors a year.

The first of the passages was created in 1346 to carry Exeter's first piped and privatised water supply to the cathedral community. The water was sourced by the nearby St Sidwell's Spring. Local people insist that this was the spot where the head of the beautiful Sidwell tumbled to

the ground after being severed by a reaper's scythe on the orders of a jealous mother. Gary Marshall, a guide, was looking forward to his next school party, due in five minutes. "I'm 25 but my parents swear I'm still 14 at heart," he said, putting on one of the hard hats that visitors must wear.

"Children love the passages. There's no danger, but they don't know that when they arrive. There's a huge mystery about the place from the moment they walk in."

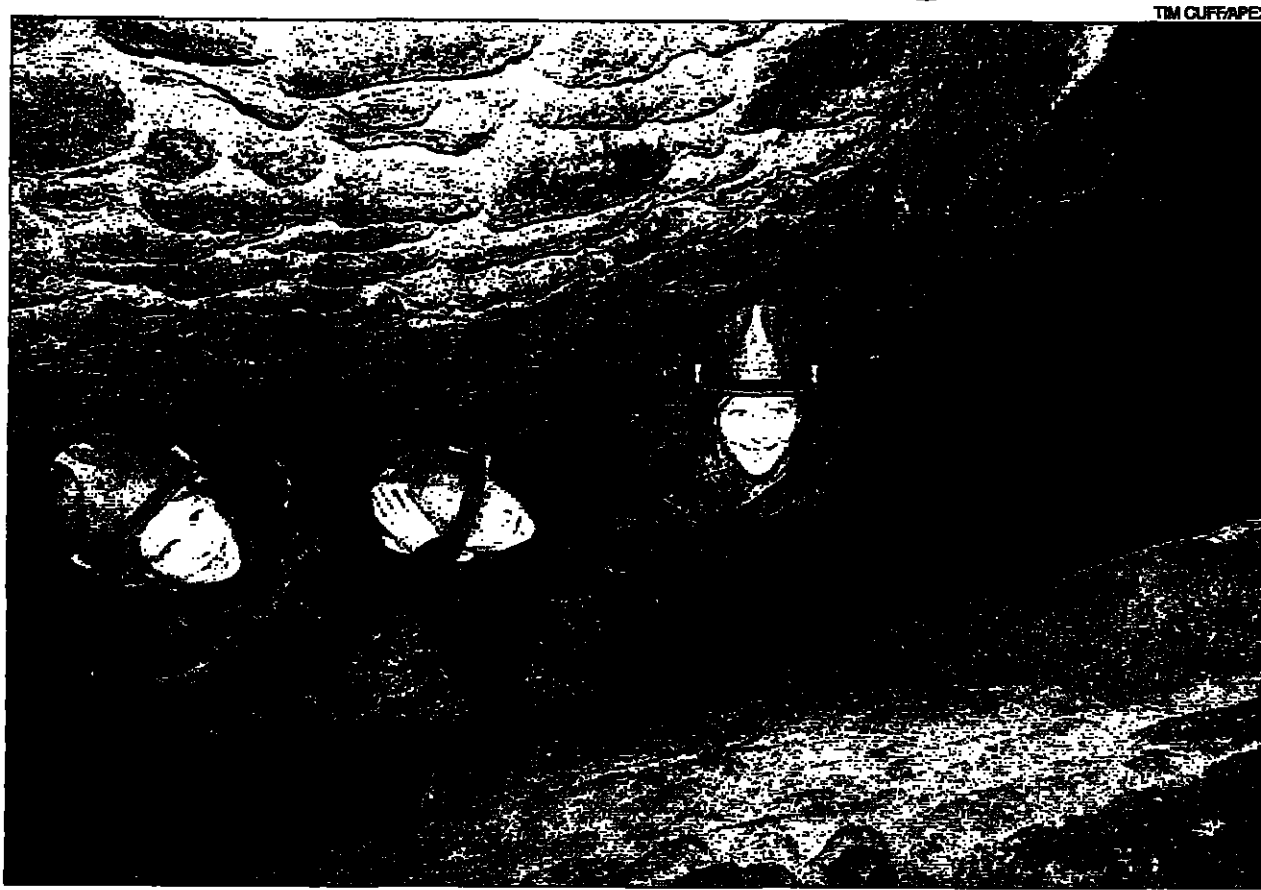
Seventeen pairs of feet clattered down the spiral staircase into the passages. The seven to ten-year-olds from Bristow Primary School, near Okehampton, had already crocoddled their way round the cathedral and the Dinosaurs Exhibition at the city museum. Little more than a quarter of the passages are open to the public but, in the Easter holidays, Mr Marshall and his team will lead families into the furthest, deepest recesses of this damp, eerie trail beneath the city centre.

"We will see places where visitors don't normally go," he said. "We'll have to start checking people for their width because at one point they are going to have to drag themselves through on their stomachs."

The Bristow group had still to come to grips with an adult who clearly shared their sense of the lurid and the downright ridiculous. "If we do get lost," he said, "it won't be a problem so long as you've got some string. Just tie it to the door before we go down."

The door closed behind us with a chilling finality. As Exeter's traffic rumbled 10ft above us, here was an oppressive, dimly lit world of archways, clammy walls and pathways, none more than 2ft wide at any point.

The space you've all made by standing against the wall is so that the rats can go by," bellowed our fast-talking, subterranean Ben Elton.



Children love the mysteries of Exeter's labyrinthine underground passages where ghosts are said to roam

"We're now under Dillon's bookstore, between the children's books and the Star Trek section... It's easy to get lost here. If I shine my torch, you'll see last week's group."

In the 14th century, he told the children, water was sold from the pipes for a penny a bucketful. The plumbers working in the passageways earned only about threepence a day so they had to take their water from the river, which carried away the sewage.

We learnt how, in 1451, 700 gallons of red wine was pumped through the system to celebrate a visit from Henry VI. "It was the first rave," Mr Marshall said.

Medieval plumbers, he said, mended leaking pipes with layers of cloth smothered with

animal fat, but the rats kept eating the repairs. "This must have been the worst place in the city to work," Mr Marshall said. "But at least it was reasonably comfortable for the plumbers

— their average height was between 4ft 6in and 5ft 1in."

He asked one of the children to switch off the wall lights. "We're meant to be in the most haunted city in England," he announced by the glow of his

torch. "The first ghost inhabits that passage over there. His name's Albert. You can't mistake him because he rides a 19th-century bicycle. We haven't seen Albert since 1960."

"The bad news is that our second ghost, a Royalist soldier, arrives in this room about every six months. He terrified a poor guide about three years ago by walking right through him."

Suddenly, the passages sounded with unearthly walls which grew louder and more high-pitched by the moment. Could this be St Sidwell and friends, heads tucked under arms? No. It was just the children of Bristow entering into the spirit of things.

BRIAN PEDLEY

Going underground

□ The entrance to the passages is in a pedestrian precinct near the corner of High Street and New North Road. Tours last about 35 minutes.

□ Admission: adults £2.25, children/concessions £1.25, family tickets £5.

□ Opening times vary. In April and July-September: Monday-

Saturday, 10am-5.30pm. October-March and May-June: Tuesday-Friday, 2pm-5pm, Saturday, 10am-5.30pm. Extended tours: 10.30am and 11.30am on Saturdays, April 8, 15, 22 and 29. Wear old clothes.

□ Advance booking is advised during school holidays (Exeter Museum, 01392 265858).



Borde Hill, Sussex, has lakeside and woodland walks

Gardens to visit this weekend

THE start of every garden-visiting season is heralded by the publication of the "Yellow Book", the indispensable guide to gardens in England and Wales which open in aid of the National Gardens Scheme. The scheme raises more than £1 million a year for charities.

The latest guide, more properly called Gardens of England and Wales 1995, and costing £3, sees 400 new entries, adding to the list of about 3,000 gardens. Gardens of Scotland (Scotland's Gardens Scheme, £2.50) lists 365 gardens which last year raised nearly £175,000.

Here are four gardens well worth visiting.

□ **Borde Hill, Haywards Heath, West Sussex** (01444 450326). Open today-Oct 1, 10am-6pm. £3.50, children £1.50.

Some of the 40-acre garden's most spectacular plants should be at their best now. Woodland and lakeside walks lead past towering magnolias and rhododendrons, many brought back from the Himalayas for Colonel Stephenson Clarke, Borde Hill's owner until his death in 1948. He raised the most famous of all camellias, "Donation", and there are many outstanding specimens. The tree magnolias include *Magnolia x wickii*, whose bare branches are covered in pink-flushed white flowers.

□ **Coletton Fishacre, Coletton, Kingswear, Devon** (01803 752466).

Open March: Sun, 2-5pm; April-Oct: Wed-Fri, Sun and Bank Hol Mon, 10.30am-5.30pm. £2.80, children £1.40.

This is a National Trust gem, near Dartmouth. The house

was built in 1926 for the D'Oyly Carte family, and the garden extends from around the house, filling a natural coombe downhill to the seashore. Rare and tender plants flourish here, including evergreen myrtles, with rich cinnamon or mottled bark, and *Dicksonia antarctica*, the stately tree fern from New Zealand.

□ **Brantwood, Coniston, Cumbria** (015394 31396). Open daily mid-March to mid-Nov, 11am-5.30pm. £1.50, children free.

Early spring is an ideal time to appreciate the breathtaking link between the garden of John Ruskin's home from 1872 to 1900 and the surrounding landscape. Rhododendrons and anemones thrive in the woodland garden, and mature trails extend out over 250 acres.

□ **Chiswick House, Burlington Lane, Chiswick, London** (0181 742 1225). Open daily all year, 10am-dusk. Free (admission fee for house).

Started by Lord Burlington before 1720, with William Kent's work dating from the 1730s, Chiswick is a classical garden of importance. Key features are the "goose foot" of avenues radiating from the house, all leading to architectural features, and the amphitheatre where a domed, pedimented temple overlooks a formal circular pool. Kent's work included the serpentine canal. Majestic cedars and other trees, with stone sphinxes, tall urns, obelisks and ornaments emphasise the garden's architectural inspiration.

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GAMES

23

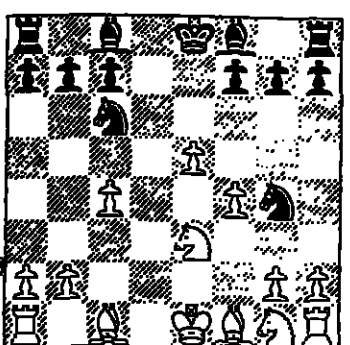
CHESS

by Raymond Keene

Last week I demonstrated a king hunt which was confined to the realms of the might-have-been. This week, the hunter was more lucky. The following spectacular game, in which White's king was pursued to its doom, was submitted by the winner, Norman Blake of Oxford.

White: S. Capsey; Black: N. Blake
Scandinavian Defence

1 e4 d5 2 exd5 e4 3 Nc3 Nf6 4 Bc4 Bb4 5 Nf3 Bxc3 6 dxc3 Qxd1 7 Nd1 Ng4 8 Bb2 Qd3 9 Ne3



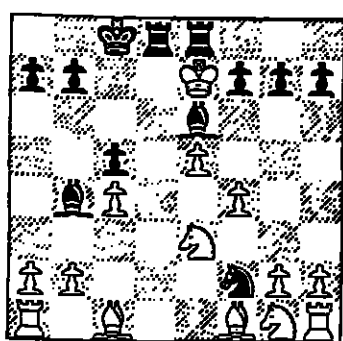
White's position is already difficult, but this move permits a deadly series of checks to occur.

9... Bb4+ 10 Ke2. The fatal journey commences, but if 10 Kd1, Nf2+ wins material.

10... Nd4+ 11 Kd3 Nf2+! A fine move. White's king is forced further up the board, soon to fall under the spell of the black pieces and pawns.

12 Kd4 c5+ 13 Kd5 Be6+ 14 Kd6 d5+ 15 Ke7 Rde8 mate.

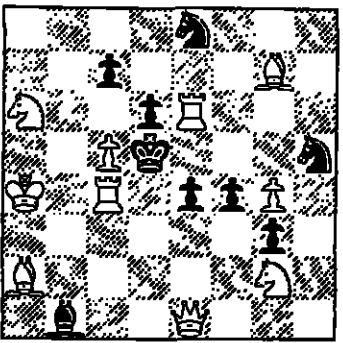
This produces one of the most extraordinary final positions I have ever seen:



My thanks to Mr Blake for sharing his remarkable victory with us.

Solving Championship

In actual play, king hunts are relatively rare. In composed problems, on the other hand, it is virtually a *sine qua non* for one, if not both kings to be stumbling around, exposed to the most unnatural hazards. Here is a case in point.



This is the starter problem for the 1995 British Chess Problem Society Solving Championship. It is White's move, and he can force mate in two moves against any Black defence. Your solution should be White's first move only and should be sent to: Brian Stephenson, 9 Roydfield Drive, Waterthorpe, Sheffield S19 6ND. Entries should be accompanied by a cheque for £2, made payable to British Chess Problem Society and a stamped, addressed envelope for receipt of the subsequent postal round. When sending your answer, please mention that you have entered through *The Times*.

WINNING MOVE

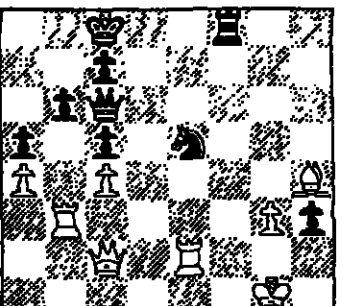
By Raymond Keene

This position is from the game Bogolyubov - Monticelli, San Remo, 1930. Despite having a rook less, Black forced a quick checkmate. What was his key first move?

Send your answers on a postcard to *The Times*, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN. The first three correct answers drawn on Thursday will win a British Chess Magazine publication. The answer will be published next Saturday.

Last week's solution: 1... Qd2+

Last week's winners: P W Newstead, Letchworth, Herts; A Jones, Twickenham, Middlesex; T Gallagher, London.



PUNCHLINE

READERS are invited to write an amusing caption for the cartoon on the right. The cartoon, from the Punch library, includes the contemporary caption.

The cartoon will be printed again next week on the Games page with a caption selected from those submitted.

Caption suggestions, on a postcard please, should be addressed to: Cartoon Caption 49, Weekend Games Page, *The Times*, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN. The editor's decision is final.

The closing date for entries is Wednesday, March 22.



Yinka Chikuma (who has let the meeting get rather out of hand, so Candidate asked to explain his party's programme). "BETTER CUT OUT EVERYTHING BUT THE FOCKY STORIES TO-SHOOT, I TELL YA."



The Power issue delicately handled by HMG

The winning caption for last week's cartoon (above) was submitted by Mr A. J. Harris, of Devizes, Wiltshire

Answers on page 18

COMPUTER GAMES



SO FAR, id Software's impact on the Nineties market has been massive. Forget the millions spent developing virtual reality, the nearest most of us get to accessible "virtuality" gaming is likely as not coming from one of id's titles.

The first, "Wolfenstein 3D", came a few years ago, and with it a mini-revolution. For the first time you really could run around corridors looking in all directions for baddies. Next, id Software served up "Doom" and "Doom II". The success of its titles was partly marketing, but mostly it was the games' blissful simplicity — just hide'n shoot for miles on end. The sound effects were impressive and worked well on the most basic of systems.

The highly stylised, ever-changing, smooth-scrolling graphics were the key. Outside you could glimpse photo-realistic mountains and the sky — they even moved. id's latest title is "Heretic", and it is good. There is more running around outside to be done and the

sound is too good — it's easy to get spooked by whispering monks. You dabble with spells as well as weapons, but — and here comes the downfall — it's getting too clever.

Apogee is one of the biggest names in Shareware games, but until now it has never shown any interest in developing anything more than colourful platform games, such as "Duke Nuke 'Em". However, "Rise of the Triad: Dark War" changes all that — this is their new virtuality baby.

The graphics seem similar to an id invention, though picture resolution and depth are more static. But the choice of possibilities inside the virtual world are commendably increased: modern or network playing allows many players to enter the environment simultaneously. The smartest feature, which should be welcomed by anxious adults everywhere, is the ability to switch from a destructive shoot-em-up to nothing more sinister than a game of virtuality "tag".

Since Interplay's "Descent" involves clumsy space battles in tunnels and shafts in one of the nastiest crafts around, it could sink without trace in the charts. Three Cyberspace Thirteen win-

ners will receive CH Products' acclaimed "Trackball Pro" and "Flightstick Pro" joystick, together worth almost £170.

The "Trackball Pro" is faster and more precise than a conventional mouse and fits any standard mouse port. The "Flightstick Pro" is a superb, self-standing joystick and comes with software drivers on a 3.5-inch disc.

To enter, review any computer gaming gadget. You should include details of any game played with the accessory and comment on overall gaming performance. Entries must be highly legible and between 200 and 350 words. Please give the full name of the gadget as well as the manufacturer or distributor, together with your name, age, address and a daytime telephone number. Clearly mark your entry: Cyberspace Thirteen, Computer Games, Weekend, *The Times*, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN. You may also fax entries to us on 0171-729 6791. The closing date for the competition is midnight on Tuesday March 28. The judges will not enter into additional correspondence.

TIM WAPSHOTT

BRIDGE

by Robert Sheehan

IN general in defence, it is best not to waste your high cards. But if you have a high card which is bound to fall uselessly on a later round of a suit, it can sometimes have a surprisingly deceptive effect if you play it early. This is particularly true in the trump suit.

Have a look at these two defensive problems:

In the first problem you are West, love against vulnerable opponents. East deals. After the auction:

W N E S
1♥ — Pass 2♥ —
All pass
You lead the ace of hearts, and see this dummy:

♠ K108
♥ J7
♦ KQ943
♣ A94

Contract: Four Spades by South

You take the ace and king of hearts, your partner playing the two and three with the declarer following. As the diamond suit looks dangerous, you switch to the three of clubs, ducked by declarer. East wins the king of clubs and returns the jack of clubs, taken in dummy with the ace. Declarer comes to hand with the ace of diamonds, cashes the queen of hearts pitching a club, and plays the jack of spades. When this holds, he continues with a second spade. Are you there?

The next hand may give you a clue.

Dealer East Love all

♠ K53
♥ 10863
♦ J8532
♣ 8

♠ A87642
♥ J8
♦ A10
♣ QJ

♠ Q
♥ AK752
♦ KQ9
♣ 9752

Contract: Four Hearts by South
Opening lead: the queen of clubs

This was the auction:

W N E S
1♦ — Pass 1♥ —
3♦ — 4♥ — All Pass

West was the Canadian international George Mittelman, playing in the recent Icelandic tournament in Reykjavik. He could play Nathan Detroit in *Gus and Dolls* without having to rehearse. East won the king of clubs and led the six of diamonds. The declarer played the king of diamonds, West won and continued with the ten of diamonds. Declarer won with the queen of diamonds

(East following with the four), ruffed a club in dummy and played a heart to the queen. Would you have been on the ball?

Mittelman played the jack of hearts under the declarer's queen of hearts. This was a cost-nothing play — obviously South was finessing, and if West had played low South would have continued with the ace of hearts.

In fact the play of the jack of hearts gave the declarer a problem — if West had started with a singleton heart, he had to enter dummy to finesse the hearts a second time. He couldn't afford to ruff a club, as that would promote East's putative king-eight of hearts into a trick. So he led a third round of diamonds. Mittelman ruffed that and cashed the ace of spades to take the contract one off.

The declarer's decision was an interesting one. If his line of play was going to succeed, West would have had to have started with one heart and two diamonds. Presumably East had at least six clubs for his Three Clubs bid, so West had at most two clubs. That would give him eight spades — would he have just bid One Spade on the first round of the auction?

The full deal on the first hand was:

Dealer West North-South game

♠ K108
♥ J7
♦ KQ943
♣ A94

♠ Q76
♥ AK1084
♦ 85
♣ Q53

♠ A93
♥ Q98
♦ A2
♣ 10876

Contract: Four Spades by South

Opening lead: the queen of clubs

This was the auction:

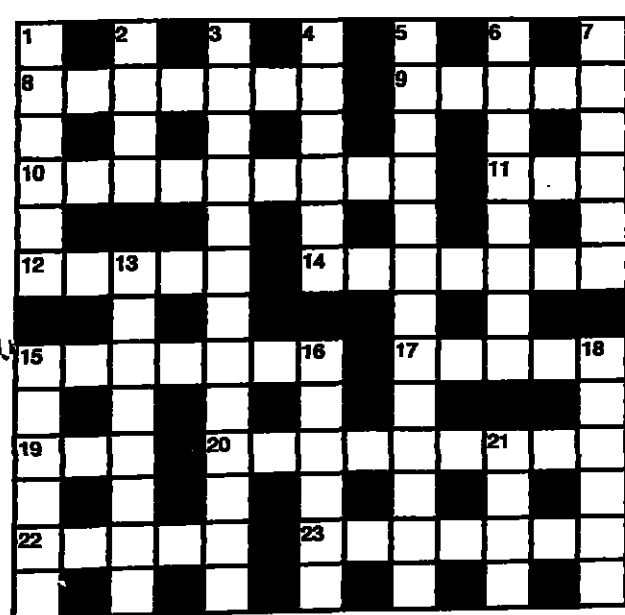
W N E S
1♦ — Pass 1♥ —
3♦ — 4♥ — All Pass

West was the Canadian international George Mittelman, playing in the recent Icelandic tournament in Reykjavik. He could play Nathan Detroit in *Gus and Dolls* without having to rehearse. East won the king of clubs and led the six of diamonds. The declarer played the king of diamonds, West won and continued with the ten of diamonds. Declarer won with the queen of diamonds

Of course, an alert West could have fooled declarer by playing his queen of spades on the second round of the suit. Now declarer would have assumed he started with queen doubleton and that therefore the diamonds were breaking (West now having a 2-5-3-3 shape). As East would be "marked" with four spades the declarer would not have been able to take a diamond ruff.

No doubt he would have drawn trumps and gone one down when the diamond suit did not behave after all.

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 423

ACROSS

- 8 Cupidity (7)
- 9 Woman's light shawl (5)
- 10 Significant point during progress (9)
- 11 Loose carpet (3)
- 12 Language of Virgil (5)
- 14 Balderdash (7)
- 15 Stalk along proudly (7)
- 17 Thespian (5)
- 19 Knock lightly: rhythmic monologue (3)
- 20 Containing intoxicant (9)
- 22 Division of society (5)
- 23 Weapon: sort of wedding (7)

DOWN

- 1 Animal that suckles (6)
- 2 Bucket (4)
- 3 Conceited, pretentious manners (4,3,6)
- 4 Banish (from country) (6)
- 5 In a way (5,1,7)
- 6 Sanction: appoint (as envoy) (8)
- 7 Mess up (a job) (6)
- 13 Silent Cistercian (8)
- 15 Permitting no deviation (6)
- 16 Put into new, improved form (6)
- 18 Disavow (previous belief) (6)
- 21 Private box (4): natural logarithm (3,1)

SOLUTION TO NO 422

ACROSS: 1 Hoot 3 Squirrel 8 Lees 9 Keelhaul 11 Par-fetched 14 Repute 15 Public 17 Broken down 20 Isabella 21 Fuse 22 Destroys 23 Weir
DOWN: 1 Hell-fire 2 Overripe 4 Quench 5 I'll be bound 6 Road 7 Lift 10 Yesterday 12 Absolute 13 Reindeer 16 Skilly 18 Rind 19 Paws

TIMES PUBLICATIONS. The Times Guides: English Style and Usage (HB) £6.99. International Finance: Japan. Nations of the World, Middle East, Good University Guide 1994-5. Single European Market £9.99 each. Peoples of Europe (HB) £16.99. European Parliament: June 1994 (HB) £26. NEW The Times Guide to the New British State £17.99. The Times Maps: The World (Wall Map laminated) £27.40. £15.99. (folded) £8.20. £5.99. Miscellaneous: The Times Night Sky 1995 £4.50. The Times 1000 1995 (HB) £33.50. The Times Concise Atlas of the Bible (HB) £15.99. reduced from £16.99. The Sunday Times Book of the Bible £4.50. Book of Brains (HB) £5.99. Prices include P&H. Cheques with answers to Akom Ltd 51 Manor Lane, London. SE15 5QW. Return delivery, order payable to Akom Ltd 51 Manor Lane, London. SE15 5QW. No credit cards. Tel. 0181 852 4575 (24hrs) No credit cards.

No. 3297: Musical Chairs by Elefa

In this game, an appropriate number of clues has to be adjusted before solution and the same number of answers adjusted before entry in the square, in opposite, though complementary ways. The answers to 6 across and 37 down may be of assistance in finding the number. There is the occasional decoy.

In the completed grid, solvers should highlight the author's lyrical invitation to enjoy his theme.

ACROSS

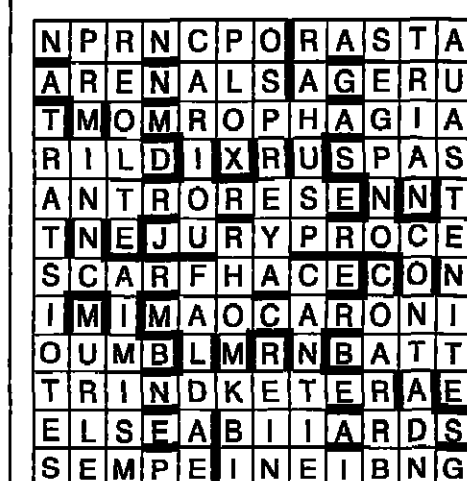
1. Sheep call round more readily to be shorn for woollen material (8)
6. Time encompassed by saints such as Solon and Solomon (5)
10. A half brick (3)
11. One top of the class that is embraced in fond farewells (6)
12. Australian native missing a turn gets little cheer (3)
13. Big chest for stout lad (7)
15. Short bear gets in honey tree (6)
18. Piddling even if double (3)
20. Flower hid missing ogre (3)
21. Fifty caper, five score (3)
22. Daunt one's rival (5)
23. Nearly thematic sound from optimistic viewpoint (6)
24. Leap about with different one making bent knee movement (4)
26. Conjure up approval in comic vein (6)
27. Sliding cut on branch line produces spoil (6)
28. Almost what is sought by busy workers out of court (4)
30. French company in short skirts, when removed more risque (6)
34. Solve after first guess (5)
35. Charge, almost fight, for tea (3)
36. French dance. No (3)
37. Delecting, certainly missing, important date (3)
40. Lag behind through medium of baffle (6)
41. Temptress, siren etc possibly if more than one (7)
42. What are produced by crocodiles bluish-green in the middle (3)
43. Eastern noble shot once in fashionable Christian takeaway? (6)

44. Tender nymph deprived of wings (3)
45. Stock — one of beef — using only new ingredients (5)
46. Nutcase — socio-economic classification clubs take amiss (8)

DOWN

1. Collecting specimens, possibly bohea and orris, with tin (13)
2. Depends on securing compliance for European customs (6)
3. Rebel not turned over after month of cleansing (11)
4. In adversity cannot brewer advance from bottom to top (5)
5. Exercise in genuine set aside (6)
6. Cattle with time for new milk producer (4)
7. Hell! Where's last puzzle (6)
8. Still rhythmic pattern despite loss of energy (4)
9. Defraud upset constituents that may demonstrate one's rank (13)
14. Stages relevantly new instead of humourless (6)
16. Intriguing race below speed of sound (11)
17. Jump up and down doltily? (4)
19. Author in translation — possibly Penguin (7)
25. Aberrant Malagasy sailor's address to captain (6)
28. Recipient of proceeds of safe robbery? There is no going back on it (4)
29. Silk provided charity initially takes on a liberal brief (6)
31. I provided unbeatable service before afternoon inactivity (6)
33. Half quail stuffed with mushroom brought up by emetic (6)
35. Indian for university in a rising school participant bright and good swimmer (5)
37. Last verse omitting nothing that might make one green (4)
38. Component of Indian meal only slightly leavened but rising just the same (4)

Statistics relating to 1994 crosswords are now available to senders of an ssc (from overseas, stamp exempt) to J.E. Green, 31 Bishopric Court, Horsham, West Sussex RH12 1TJ.



Solution notes for No 3294: Optimaist by Fenix

In each case the letter change is given, followed by the corrected or redundant word.

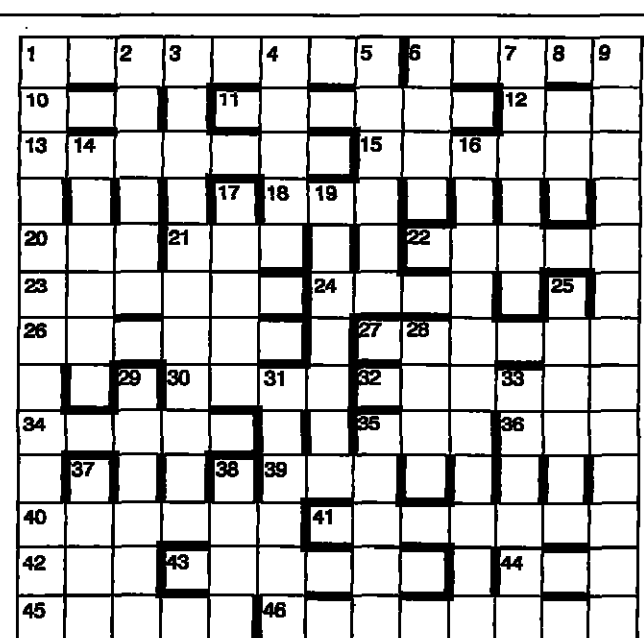
- ACROSS:
1-1 Propionic
7-M Cap
11-S Subversive
12-U Uncion
14-R Creased
15-E anagramme
16-W No
17-E anagramme
18-S Writ
21-H That
27-O Pop

- 28-U Unburnt
30-L Bal
31-D Done
32-A Mean
33-L Cue
34-L Me
35-B Baronet

- DOWN:
2-E Have
3-A Te
4-S A
5-H Oney
6-A Alate
7-P Parents
8-P Replaying
9-Y War
10-A anagramme
13-S Surviving
19-K Sick
20-I anagramme

I'm sure we should be as happy as kings - RLS

The winner, who receives book tokens worth £50, is P.D. Gaine, of Uppingham, Leicestershire. Book tokens worth £20 go to P.A. Darby, of Hereford, and C.M. Jones, of East Barnet, Hertfordshire.



LISTENER CROSSWORD No. 3297

NAME

ADDRESS

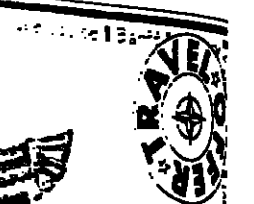
POSTCODE

PRIZES: Book tokens worth £50 will go to the winner. The two runners-up will each win £20 book tokens.

ADDRESS: Readers should cut out and send the completed crossword and coupon above, to *The Listener Crossword 3297*, 63 Green Lane, St Albans, Hertfordshire, AL3 6HE. Entries must be received by Thursday, March 30.

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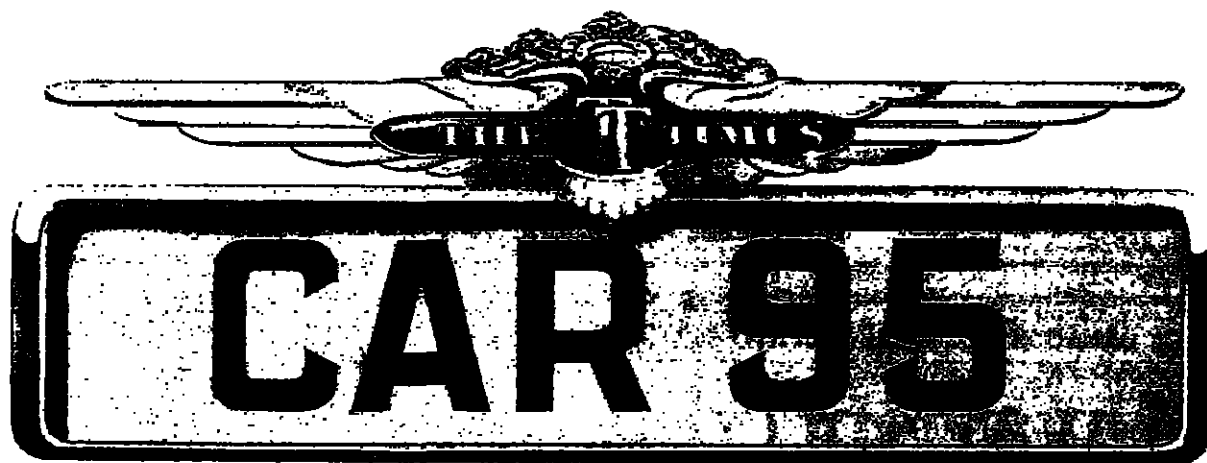
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Direct
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Michelin
men happy
to burn
rubber for a
new classic

Page 3



Carmakers
cash in
on the
catwalk
queens



Page 5

SATURDAY MARCH 18 1995

Motorists trapped by anti-theft fiasco

Most immobilisers on the market are not acceptable to top insurance companies, reports Tony Dawe

Motorists eager to fit immobilisers to reduce the risk of car theft could find themselves wasting hundreds of pounds because of a minefield of contradictory rules and regulations.

An investigation by Car 95 has discovered that the expanding market for the devices has caused total confusion among insurance companies, which often have the final say on the suitability of individual immobilisers.

Some are acceptable to one company but not to another, and most on the market are not acceptable to the leading insurance companies. The result can be that a motorist who has fitted a perfectly adequate device might be ordered to rip it out and install another by his insurance company.

Much of the confusion arises because most insurers will only accept equipment rigorously tested at the Motor Insurance Research Centre in Thatcham, Berkshire. The tests, though, cannot keep pace with the increasing number of sophisticated products coming on to the market.

So motorists have been buying new cars with the latest anti-theft devices, only to be told by their insurers to fit another because their devices are not yet on the approved list. Some have suffered a second blow when the car-makers told them they had invalidated the warranty by interfering with the car's electronics.

John Shield, sales and marketing director of The Immobiliser Group, a leading manufacturer, said: "It's a minefield. The main purpose of stopping cars being stolen seems to have been lost amid the regulations."

Some car owners fit the devices encouraged by discounts of up to 20 per cent on their insurance premiums. Owners of high-performance cars such as Ferraris and Jaguars, and off-road vehicles, GTIs and XRs, are generally required to fit them before they can obtain insurance.

Alison Hunter, a contract funder from Chelsea, was told she had to fit an immobiliser when she bought a new Volkswagen Golf GTi earlier this year. "What baffled me," she said, "was that the car came with an immobiliser fitted by the manufacturer."

Crowe Insurance, of Colchester, Essex, which had offered the lowest premium, insisted, however, that an additional immobiliser be fitted. Soon after it was installed, Miss Hunter found the windscreen wipers would not work and returned the car to her Volkswagen dealer.

"They said the car's electronics had been wired through the new immobiliser, creating a fault which could have caused all the lights to fail or the doors to lock," she said. "Even worse, they said the work

invalidated the warranty. Eventually the new immobiliser was removed and I got another insurance policy which cost me an extra £100. "I am left with a feeling that my new car has been soiled quite unnecessarily."

John Pike, of Crowe Insurance, said: "We don't consider ourselves engineers and rely on the latest information from Thatcham." Unfortunately for Miss Hunter, Volkswagen's latest factory-fitted immobiliser is still under review at the research centre.

Graham Prince, managing director of Neva Consultants, which supplies vehicles on contract hire, encountered a similar problem when he arranged to buy four Vauxhall Omegas for a customer. "They came

fitted with a Vauxhall immobiliser but the insurer refused to accept it because it was not on the Thatcham-approved list," he said. "It cost nearly £800 to fit new ones."

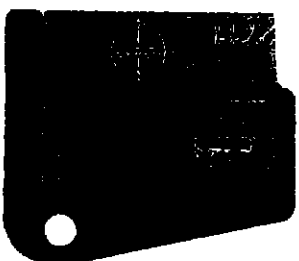
Like the VW alarm, the Omega system, complete with immobiliser, remote control and alarm, has yet to complete its Thatcham tests.

"The system is so good that not a single Omega has been stolen since the model came on the market nearly a year ago," said John Winter, Vauxhall's insurance operations manager. "Unfortunately, the bench tests take a number of months and there is a misunderstanding in the insurance industry that a device must be on the approved list to be a good."

Alex Butler, of east London, was caught in an older immobiliser trap. When he tried to insure his registration Ford Escort XR3i last year, the best deal his broker could find was with Highway Motor Policies at Lloyd's. The company insisted that an immobiliser be fitted and was happy with the B3 product made by The Immobiliser Group.

This year the broker has been able to get a much better deal with the Norwich Union, but the company refuses to

WHAT IS AN IMMOBILISER?



● An immobiliser prevents thieves from "hot wiring" the starter motor by requiring an electronic message to the engine management computer. The message comes from the ignition key in factory-built systems or from a separate key inserted in the dashboard in after-market equipment.

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This year the broker has been able to get a much better deal with the Norwich Union, but the company refuses to

accept the B3 and insists it must be replaced by a Thatcham-approved device. "This is just ridiculous and a waste of the money I spent last year," said Mr Butler. "We are now trying to find a good deal with a company which will accept the B3."

Norwich Union said the company had initially recommended specific immobilisers to its customers but, as thefts increased and more systems came on the market, it had

supported the industry initiative which led to the Thatcham tests and now relied on their results.

This attitude leaves Mr Shield of The Immobiliser Group understandably aggrieved.

He said: "The B3 has been highly successful, it has stopped cars being stolen and has been sold to several countries. But it is not sophisticated enough to pass the Thatcham checks because it does not



Caught in the anti-theft trap: Alison Hunter with her Golf GTi. 'I am left with the feeling that my new car has been soiled'

have enough components or key combinations."

Under the rigorous Thatcham tests, "almost everything a car might suffer is thrown at the device," said Ken Roberts, director of research. "We then study all the results and decide whether the immobiliser meets our criteria. It might be a tough test regime but there is no point approving devices which a thief can overcome in seconds."

Mr Roberts added that it was vital that the device be fitted properly once it had been approved, and a list of accredited companies had been drawn up by the Independent Vehicle Security Installation Board (VSIB).

Unwary motorists, just wanting to protect their cars, should be warned that insurers might soon accept only immobilisers that are approved by the Thatcham insurance research centre and fitted by VSIB-approved engineers.

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The Thatcham list — the 83 alarms and immobilisers approved by the Motor Insurance Research Centre

CATEGORY 1

KEY FEATURES

- Alarm with full perimeter and volumetric detection, back-up power supply.
- Immobiliser isolating a minimum of two operating systems, passively armed.
- Anti-scan, anti-grab resistance of codes.

SYSTEM	MODEL	COST
AA	AA SG 30	£355
BMW	System 3G	N/A
BMW	System 3T	£440
Bosch	RF2000	£480
CEL	Topline 5016	£400
CEL	Topline 5011	£385
CEL	Topline 4011	£370
Clifford	Concept 50	£475
Cobra	6019 mk2	£475
Ford	Ford 40	£400
Foreguard	F1 - 11	£400
Foreguard	H2 - M	£250
Gemini	GR 420	£350
Gemini	Aquila (5160T)	£400
GT Alarms	GT 161	£385
Laserline	906	£385
Mercedes-Benz	5000	£700
Nissan	NATS V1.0 Plus	£435
Nissan	NATS V2.0 Plus	N/A
Renault	6019	£500
Saab	SC8019	N/A
Scorpion	2000	£480
Secure Microsystems	SG30	£400
Selmer	SGA 598	£400
Spyball	SPK 680	£395
Toyota	5000	£475
Toyota	TVSS II+	£420
VAG	5000	£600
Vauxhall	DSA	N/A
Volvo	5000	£640

KEY FEATURES

- Immobiliser isolating a minimum of two operating systems, passively armed.

SYSTEM	MODEL	COST
AA	Immobiliser	£140
Autolock	404E	£270
Autolock	101E	£130
BMW	MB Immobiliser	£200
BMW	System 2T	£340
Bosch	Electronic KWS	£210
Caterc	Guardsmen 2000	£125
CEL	Protector 15	£140
CEL	Protector 10	£125
Cobra	0803T	£200
Cobra	0802T	£150
Digital VSS	BM140T Vigilante	£120
Ferrari	Immobiliser	£350
Ford	951 Immobiliser	£225
Ford	Safeguard	N/A
Gemini	Serpi Star MK125	£180
Gemini	GAT	£150
Gemini	Falco (5049)	£200
Hamilton & Palmer	Vantage ATS	£300
Hamilton & Palmer	Matrix 3	£210
Hamilton & Palmer	Matrix 2	£150
Honda	Pro-Line 4	£275
Honda	Pro-Line 2	£255
Jaguar	EPIC	£250
Laserline	992T	£120
Laserline	994	£165
Laserline	995	£150
Maystar	SV4	£180
Maystar	S400	£150
Mazda	MVSS 115	£160
Nissan	NATS V1.0	£155
Nissan	NATS V2.0	N/A
PBM	TVI IMM5	£125
Peugeot	96721T	£140
Philips	PH550T	£165
Porsche	Immobiliser	£400
RVJM	AS3/T	£145
Saab	Anti-theft Alarm	£400/£585
Sanji	Talisman 3	£145
Scorpion	502	£175
Secure Microsystems	Sigma SG 10	£280
Secure Microsystems	Sigma SG 20	£330
Secure Microsystems	Sigma SG 40	£175
Solartrack	Block System 4	£130
Technology for Today	Medician 250	£290
TUK	Escalibur 7000	£110
TUK	VIM 129	£145
Vauxhall	Managusta	£400
Vectra	Shadow	£225
Vectra	Silhouette	£150
Wipac	EP10	£190
Wipac	FP15	£150

□ Costs may vary according to installation time and labour rates

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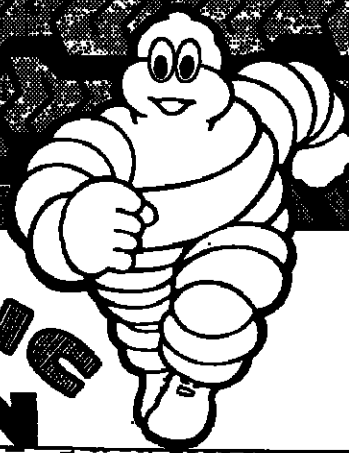
It would be fair to say that most Classics usually cost a fortune. Not any more.

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'Such a limit would certainly cut the prime cause of accidents, which is vehicles driving too close to one another'

Let's raise the M-way speed limit to 90mph

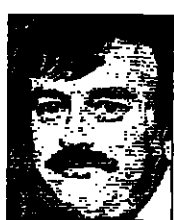
So here we are in the middle lane of the M5, fairly busy on a Sunday evening with people returning from weekends away. Not much point staying in the middle lane, because slowish traffic has been forced out by even slower traffic on the inside lane, so I am idling along and barely touching 60mph.

Move out to the third lane. Fair bit of traffic here, too, but at least it is moving at 70mph. I am about to observe some incredibly bad driving because I have decided to see what actually happens when a car travels at the correct distance from the car in front.

The thought is in my mind because a few days earlier, on the road between Geneva and Lausanne, my eldest daughter's fiancé was the front-seat passenger in a car that was in an eight-car shunt caused by a vehicle two in front going out of control, being hit by the two behind which were in turn hit by five more from the rear. Somebody in all of that was travelling too close to somebody else.

The 70mph dry-surface stopping distance is 96 metres (315 feet), or 24 car lengths. I position myself that distance from the car in front on the M5 — it is, incidentally, a hell of a

DRIVEN TO DISTRACTION



Peter Barnard

long way — and within 20 seconds two cars in front of me have moved from the second lane to the third.

Thus there are now three cars in the 315 feet between me and the original car in front. Whatever officialdom might say about the third lane being for overtaking, this is dreamland: the second lane is now so packed that there is no way back into it.

So four cars in the outside lane are now travelling at 70mph, an average of 75 feet apart, the safe stopping distance if they were doing 30mph. Hello, what's this? A chancer in an Astra has come up behind me and sees a way to make progress. He

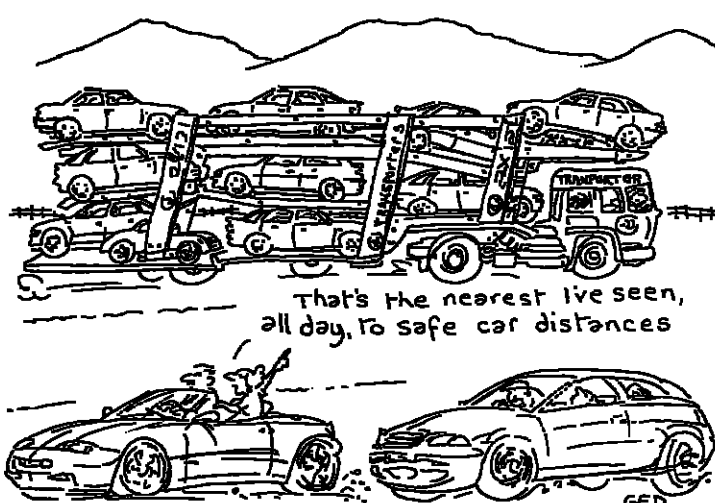
drifts into the second lane and then into the first, then cuts across the second lane and into the third. In front of me.

The 315ft gap that we had three minutes ago is now occupied by five cars and the Astra is 40 feet in front of me, which is 29 feet less than the safe thinking distance at this speed.

At this point something interesting happened. The mean speed of the third lane traffic increased and, without going into details, officer, a mile or so later I was back in the second lane with a comfortable (though by no means the safe minimum) distance between me and the car in front and the third lane traffic had spaced out, too, albeit by travelling at almost 90mph.

The first thing my experiment proves is that safe stopping distances are a joke and will remain so until someone finds a way to enforce them. I am as much a culprit as anyone else, but none of us is assisted by the fact that too many cars on motorways are travelling at similar speeds, thus leading to bunching.

The police appear to accept 80mph without turning on their blue lights, but I rarely see anyone travelling at less than 60mph. While the speed gap is 20mph there is no hope of



spreading the traffic to safe stopping distances, so there is a strong case for a six-month experiment on one motorway (to provide comparisons) during which the maximum would be raised to a strictly-enforced 90mph.

It would apply in dry conditions only, therefore we ought to get on with it so that the higher limit can apply through the summer.

The fact is that speed per se is only a marginal cause of accidents and

indeed the biggest speed/accident problems are not on motorways but on country roads: there is nothing to stop two vehicles closing on each other at 60mph on a single track rural road, a situation that desperately needs looking at. I cannot prove that a 90mph limit on motorways would cut accidents, but if it increased the space between cars it would certainly cut the prime cause of accidents, which is vehicles driving too close to one another.

Bull-bars: the killer gimmick

Is this the end of the road for a lethal and often useless fashion accessory? Jonathan Pryn reports

Steel bull-bars, the fashion accessory of the four-wheel-drive owning middle classes, appear to be destined for the scrap-heap amid mounting evidence of the dangers they pose to pedestrians, particularly children.

Although manufacturers are still offering bull-bars as a highly popular optional extra, they are being forced to respond to growing public alarm by offering safer plastic alternatives which have a similar amount of 'give' to modern car fronts.

The stakes have been raised by the results of recent research in Germany, which showed that even at speeds as low as 12mph, most small children hit by head-high steel bull-bars are likely to suffer fatal injuries.

Their inflexibility means that pedestrians, particularly children, are more likely to be mown down by the vehicle rather than flipped onto the bonnet, which gives a better chance of survival.

The German researchers were so alarmed by the damage to the expensive plastic balls used to represent a child's head in the tests that they abandoned plans to repeat them at 20mph on cost grounds.

Safety groups and politicians are increasingly angry

that a fashion accessory originally designed to protect off-road vehicles from kamikaze kangaroos in the Australian outback is putting young lives at risk in Britain's towns.

Motoring organisations are also convinced of the case against bull-bars and the AA and the RAC advise members not to fit them.

More than half a million vehicles are already thought to have been fitted with bull-bars and up to 75 per cent of popular four-wheel-drive models are sold with bars weighing up to 40kg attached.

Figures from the Transport Research Laboratory suggest that at least 35 people a year, including 15 children, are killed as a result of injuries inflicted by bull-bars.

Graham Lawrence, a senior scientific officer at the Transport Research Laboratory, says: "Most of these off-road vehicles are very pedestrian-unfriendly. It is pretty horrendous that these injuries can be caused at such low speeds."

Mr Lawrence says a range of shatter-proof plastic or plastic-coated alternatives that would give children hit by bull-bars a far greater chance of survival is already in the advanced stages of testing, and will soon be widely available.

However, he warns that in



Danger level: a seven-year-old in front of a Land Rover Discovery shows how the bars could inflict fatal head injuries

the absence of legislation, only sustained public pressure will force motor manufacturers to phase out the steel killers completely. "If there is not a continual outcry about the dangers, then things start to relax again," he says.

European legislation banning steel bull-bars is not expected to be in place before the end of the decade. In the meantime, the Government is stepping up the pressure on the industry to get to grips with the problem. Last week, Steve Norris, the road safety minister, stepped into the row, accusing manufacturers of putting fashion before safety.

The industry view is that it

is better for manufacturers to fit safety-tested bull-bars than for car owners to attach untested and possibly more dangerous substitutes from accessory dealers.

Colin Walkey, a spokesman for Land Rover, says: "Our bull-bars meet all the world's toughest safety regulations. However, we are not complacent and we are always looking to improve the safety of our accessories and our vehicles."

A handful of leading manufacturers have already anticipated the apparently inevitable demise of the steel

bull-bar and are starting to offer plastic alternatives. Last year Suzuki displayed models fitted with non-rigid bars. According to Russell Hayes of Complete Car magazine, Ford is likely to follow suit this year, with its Maverick off-road vehicle having plastic bull-bars fitted as standard.

Although manufacturers argue that the case against bull-bars is yet to be definitively made, there is widespread anecdotal evidence of the horrifying impact they have on the human frame in collisions.

It is not just children who are at risk. Last December, Dr Charles Goring, an emergency consultant at North

Tyneside General Hospital, was puzzled by a seemingly routine accident in a village near Newcastle in which a 17-year-old was hit by a four-wheel-drive vehicle at less than 30mph. Normally, the chances of an adult pedestrian surviving after being hit at that speed are regarded as high, but in this case the car was fitted with a bull-bar. The victim died almost instantly from the massive injuries to his upper body caused by the steel apparatus.

Dr Goring is convinced that if the vehicle had been fitted with a plastic rather than a steel bar, the young man would still be alive today.

THE AA'S GRIDLOCK GUIDE

● **LONDON**
Twickenham: congestion due to England v Scotland rugby match today.
Earts Court: The Ideal Home Exhibition, expect delays in area between 10am and 6pm from now until April 9.

A406 North Circular Rd, Upper Edmonton: road width reduced on Lea Valley Viaduct until the end of the year.

A219 Putney Bridge: reduced to one lane each way for repairs until June.

A214 Trinity Rd, Wandsworth: temporary lights at junction with Burntwood Lane cause regular delays, especially northbound in mornings until the end of March.

A501 Kings Cross one-way system: major repairs with lane closures. Restrictions, long delays.

A1 East Finchley: major repairs on Fallowden Way and Lyttelton Rd, delays.

● **SOUTH EAST**
M25 Surrey J7-8 (M23/Reigate): contraflow affects traffic joining from M23 northbound.

M25 Surrey J10-11 (A3/Chertsey): widening work with contraflow.

A3 Guildford: contraflow between Abbotswood and Cathedral interchanges, delays near A322/Dennis slip road.

A329 Bracknell, Berks: Roadworks at Met Office roundabout, junction with A322/A3095/33022.

A27 Chichester Bypass, Sussex: contraflow between Stockbridge and Bognor Rd roundabouts, with lane closures also at Westhampnett.

M275 Hampshire between Portsmouth and M27, contraflow for major maintenance, also lane closures on M27 between J11-J12 (Fareham/M275).

A40 Oxfordshire: roadworks between Cassington and Eynsham, very narrow lanes.

A420 Oxfordshire: roadworks at Faringdon between bypass and Longcote turn, extra, restrictions, long delays.

● **SOUTH WEST**
M4 Avon J20-21 (Almondsbury/Aust): roadworks affecting both carriageways until May, 1995.

M32 Avon J1-2 (Filton/Eastville): lane restrictions both ways for bridge work. Delays at peak times.

M5 Glos J11-12 (Cheltenham/Gloucester): contraflow.

A350 Somerset, Wilts: roadworks in High Street.

A4 Bath: temporary lights on London Rd West, work on Bathaston Bypass. Expect long delays.

A40 Glos: only one lane open in each direction over the M5 overbridge on the Golden Valley bypass.

● **MIDLANDS AND EAST**
ENGLAND
A49 Shropshire: resurfacing work, delays expected, no work on Sundays.

A52 Nottingham Ring Rd: roadworks between Dunkirk and Nottingham Knight until April. Additional restrictions overnight.

A45 Stonebridge: flyover construction at A452 junction and widening between M42 J6 and Stonebridge Island (40mph limit and lane closures).

A38 Bournebrook: Bristol Rd has work between Edgaston Park Rd and Chapel Lane Selly Oak.

● **NORTH**
M6 Cheshire J20-21A (Lymm/Croft): roadworks continue near Thelwell Viaduct. Southbound entry slip closed at J21.

M62 West Yorkshire J25-J26 (Brighouse/Chain Bar): contraflow and 50mph restriction. Westbound entry slip closed at J25.

M16 South Yorks J3-4 (Doncaster area): contraflow and lane restrictions. Northbound entry slip closed at J3.

M57 Merseyside J1 (Tarbock Island): roadworks and lane closures at roundabout junction with M62.

M62 Humberside J34-35 (Whitley Bridge/Langham): contraflow with two lanes each way and eastbound entry slip road at J34 closed.

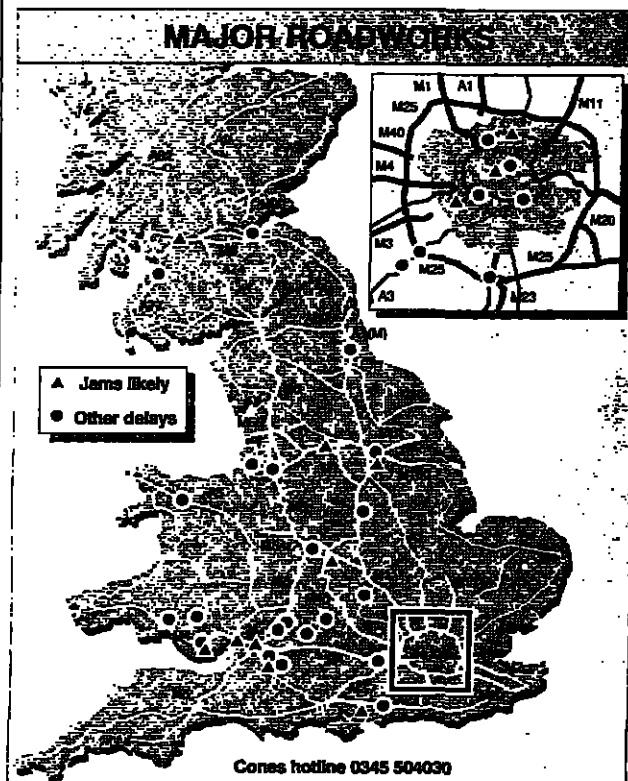
A1M Co Durham between Bowburn and Carville: contraflow and 50mph limit.

● **WALES**
Cardiff Arms Park: road closures for Wales v Ireland rugby match today.

M4 Gwent J23-22 (Magor/Newhouse): lane restrictions and contraflow for widening between Magor and Rogiet for work on second Severn crossing.

M4 South Glamorgan: widening interchange at J28 (Coryton).

A5 Maerdy, Chyr: improvements continue at Glyn bends. Temporary lights and short-term closures.



Cones hotline 0345 504030

A465 West Glamorgan, between Llanidlo and Aberdare: contraflow on Seaford viaduct for resurfacing. Long delays likely.

A4223 Pontypool: one-way system on Gelliwastad Rd.

● **SCOTLAND**
M8 Strathclyde: contraflow between J26-J28 (Hillington and Glasgow airport).

Edinburgh: restrictions on High St between North and South bridges.

A77 Strathclyde: roadworks at Milnhaugh between Maybole and Ayr.

● **NORTHERN IRELAND**
A26 Co Londonderry: temporary lights on Greenhill Rd at junction with Ballymoney bypass.

A37 Limavady, Co Londonderry: temporary lights on Broad Rd.

A1 Co Down: only one lane open southbound on Hillsborough roundabout and Moira junction.

A29 Newtownhamilton, Co Down: width restrictions on Armagh St until April.

The driving test

It's time for a tougher line, say safety chiefs

THE driving test, introduced 60 years ago this week, is a hopeless anachronism in need of radical overhaul, say road safety experts (Vaughan Freeman writes).

In 1935, there were 1.5 million vehicles on the road, no motorways, no dual carriageways, no roundabouts, and 70mph was a distant dream for most drivers.

Yet the previous year, 7,000 people were killed on the roads, about twice the current level of fatalities. The first person to pass the test was a Mr J. Bean, no doubt as nervous as all subsequent candidates as he tried to keep to the newly-introduced 30mph speed limit and give horse traffic a wide berth.

Today there are 25 million vehicles in Britain. 70mph motorway convoys are common and cars are infinitely more sophisticated. Yet the test has barely changed.

The only significant modifications have been the scrapping in 1975 of hand signals, and the introduction in 1991 of

retical element will be added, but many think that is not enough.

Cathy Ward, of the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents, says: "We would like to see more hazard perception training which we believe would especially benefit young drivers, who are seven times more likely to have an accident in the first two years."

Matthew Arnold, of the British School of Motoring, says: "The test at present is 35 minutes long. A longer one would be a better test of ability to control a car."

Ted Clements, chief examiner with the Institute of Advanced Motorists, says: "The driving test is pretty good on the whole, tougher than anywhere else in Europe. Less than half those who take the test pass it." But he concedes there is room for improvement, which could start with a stiffer eye-sight test.

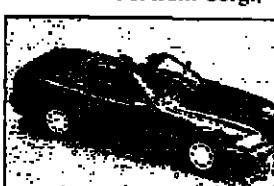
Today, candidates pay £27.50 to take their test. In

THE TIMES

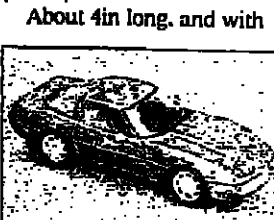
Two offers for classic car lovers

LOVERS of classic cars are offered two special bargains: valuable concessions on entry to the London Classic Motor Show at Alexandra Palace, London and the opportunity to buy scale models at greatly reduced prices.

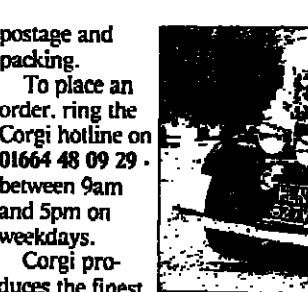
The models, from Corgi,



are highly detailed 1:43 replicas of the Mercedes-Benz 320 SL cabriolet (above) and the Chevrolet Corvette coupé (below).



About 4in long, and with features including carpets and seat belts, the models normally retail for £16.99. Times readers can order



Classic star of the show: Courier Cadillac

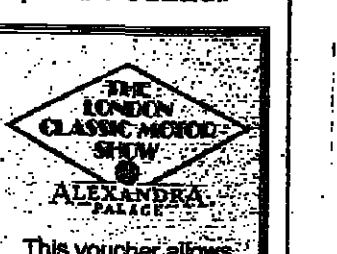
postage and packing. To place an order, ring the Corgi hotline on 01664 48 09 29 between 9am and 5pm on weekdays.

Corgi produces the finest die-cast model vehicles in the world. The original vehicle is measured and photographed to ensure that every detail is reproduced in the handcrafted patterns and transferred to the final tooling. Every decoration detail is carefully checked, right down to the number plate.

Detailed interiors, realistic engines, opening doors, suspension, jewelled headlights, fibre optic lights and tip-up seats are among the features which make each model an authentic replica.

Visitors to the Alexandra Palace show who pay the full-price adult admission charge of £5 can take a child free if they present the voucher below at the ticket office.

free with each adult, but the voucher entitles several adults in a group each to take a child. The offer represents a saving of £4 to a couple with two children.



This voucher allows one child aged between five and 14 to enter free with each adult who pays the full admission price of £5.

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حکومت الامارات

Campbell Bentley in sale of classics

CHOOSING a car that is the fastest man in the world cannot have been easy for Malcolm Campbell, who wanted comfort but needed sporting style. The man who won the 1929 world's fastest car title offered enough style and substance, but Bentley was an exception. In 1929, the Bentley 3.5 litre, a magnificent grand tourer which was a manufacturer's place in the world's finest.

Known as "the client's car", Campbell's Bentley comes up for auction at the London Classic Motor Show at Alexandra Palace this weekend, one of the hammer at the celebration of some stunning cars of the past.

The show has the original MG OLD NO 1, as it has 70 years of a marque finally enjoying a significant revival. There will be a 1994 Shelby Cobra, the first Vauxhall to come from the bubble cars, the American monster, the Batmobile from the television series.

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402 Northampton Burg Road, Dunfermline, Fife, KY11 1JL. Tel: 01382 626262. Fax: 01382 626263. Email: info@idlock.co.uk. Website: www.idlock.co.uk. IDLOCK is a leading manufacturer of high security locks and door hardware. Our products are used in homes, businesses and public buildings throughout the world. We offer a full range of services including design, supply and installation. For more information, please contact us today.

ROADWORKS



SATURDAY MARCH 18 1995

CAR 95

3

Taking your car under the Channel is not always a guarantee of plain sailing. The super-marketed shuttle has its bad points, as Alan Law found out

Just turn up and go – round le bend

The publicity campaign was irresistible. "Just turn up and drive aboard. You'll be in France 35 minutes later." I had to be in Geneva for breakfast, so a late journey on Le Shuttle seemed the perfect way to experience the wonders of the Channel Tunnel and get to my business appointment.

Well, just how wrong can "le shuffler" be? With a pre-paid ticket, I reached Folkestone at 11.15pm, in good time for an 11.55 departure. I changed my pounds into French and Swiss francs at the kiosk on the way in. It was the only thing that went smoothly all night.

Suddenly there was plenty of time. The indicator board said our train had been cancelled and would now leave at 1.10am.

Fellow "shuffler" Sean Ellis, from Meopham in Kent, had rung at 8pm to be told he could catch the 12.40. He wasn't happy either. All we could get by way of refreshment to pass the time were hot and cold drinks from vending machines

which also dispensed confectionery. Everything else, apart from the duty-free shop, was shut.

The staff seemed genuinely sorry and were very supportive. A kind lady attendant in duty-free gave Sean a packet of her own Jaffa cakes. The girl behind what turned out to be the complaints counter offered to go to the staff canteen and get us some sandwiches.

This helped to soften the news that "Le Shuttle" would not leave until 1.30am.

With nothing better to do, I chatted to an official in an iridescent yellow traffic jacket. "This happens all the time," he said. "Salt is causing corrosion on both the power line and the rails. We have to close sections of the

tunnel every night to clear the salt. But tonight the points have also failed and there is traffic congestion in the tunnel."

'I changed cash: that alone went smoothly'

Traffic congestion? "Yes. There are five trains held up in there ahead of you."

He told me what his job was. I told him I was a journalist. His face went as white as the salt that was making both our lives a misery.

We finally "shuffled" aboard at 1.44am but did not leave until 2am.

After travelling all of 200 yards we had a few more stop-and-crawls before shuffling at varying speeds to Calais, which we reached at 3.26am – precisely four hours and 11 minutes after arriving at the Folkestone terminal with one hour

and 42 minutes actual travelling time.

The trip had its moments. Sean's ski instructor, Peter Cornwell, from Surrey, fell asleep filling in his complaints form. The rest of us in 20 other cars didn't actually get a complaints form – they'd run out.

Sean was offered a free trip as compensation. Roughly translated, he replied: "No thanks – it's rather like hitting yourself on the head and asking if you'd like to do it again."

Meanwhile, Louis Armstrong did our blood pressures no favours by crooning over the radio *We Have All the Time in the World*.

The final announcement on the electronic info-strip in the carriage said Le Shuttle looked forward to seeing you all again soon. Unfortunately for me, they did. Three days later, after braving

snowstorms and a blizzard en route, I arrived at Calais at 5.45pm to be told the 6.15 was full and I would have to wait until 6.55.

George Isbell, a retired cabinet-maker from St Albans, who was sentenced to the same fate, complained that his outward train earlier in the day had been delayed for more than an hour.

In the middle of telling how one "Shuffle" toilet was blocked and another overflowing, his personal cup of misery flooded over with the next public announcement from the harassed French desk clerk – a further delay.

When he finally announced our departure – "Please go to your cars medial" – it was like a Le Mans

start. Men, women, pensioners and young ones all charged through driving rain to the several lines of parked cars, racing helter-skelter without regard for life or limb for pole position in front of the barriers. Near panic lest they miss their place and were turned away.

Dejectedly, we waited in lines until 7.15, boarded at 7.42 and, much to everybody's surprise, arrived at 8.18 – two hours and 26 minutes after checking in at the French terminal.

Adding insult to injury, only minutes before we staggered off at Folkestone, the announcer gave us instructions on how to drive safely. There was the usual message of apology on the indicator board, and

'Five trains are held up ahead of yours'

a helpful hint: Do not exceed 130kmh on the motorway – not a speed Le Shuttle is likely to match.

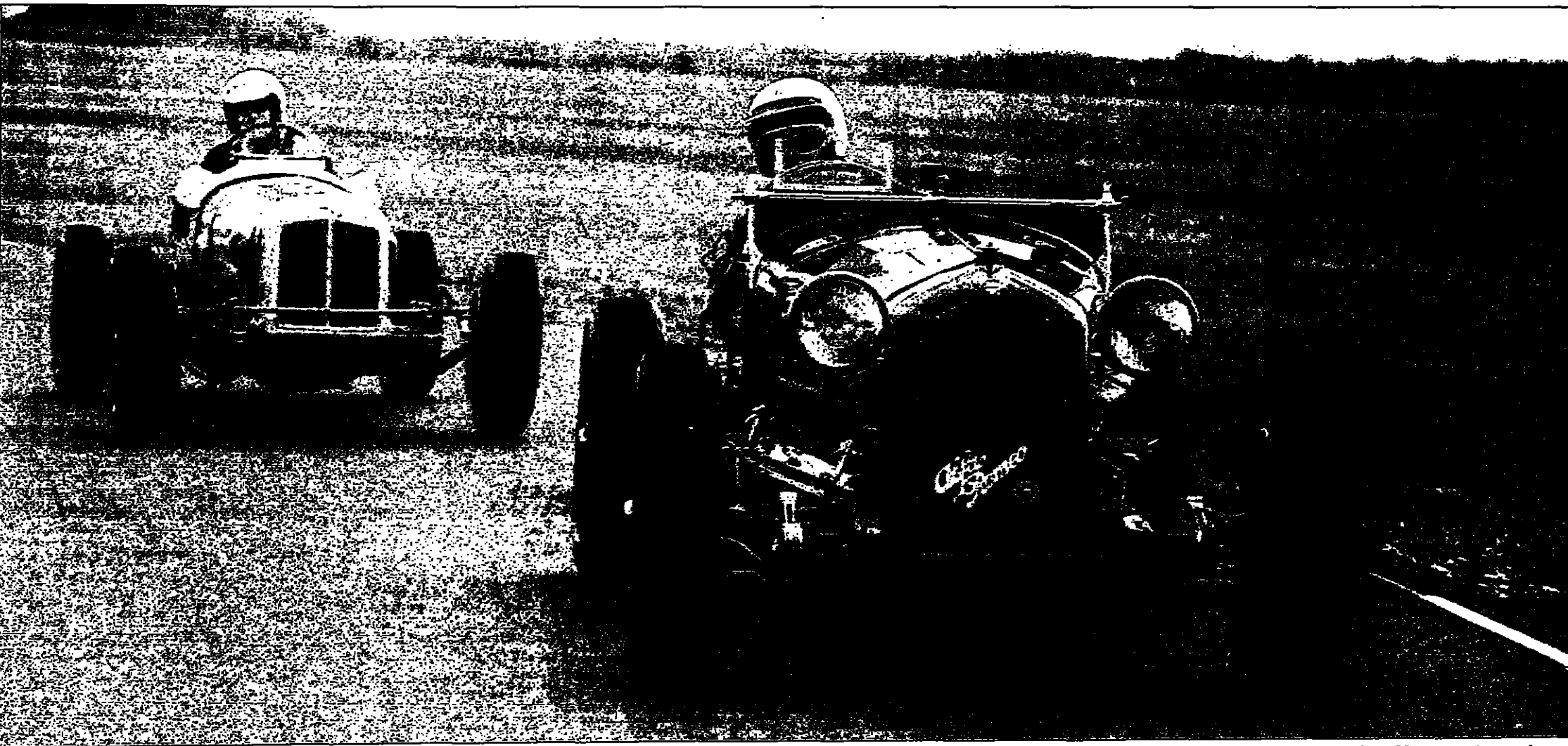
So what is going wrong? John Moulton, public relations director for Le Shuttle, said: "We close one-sixth of the tunnel every night for planned maintenance. At the weekends we close one-third."

"You were held up by a combination of a points failure and defective rolling stock – not salt corrosion." He added, however: "We allow for salt water to seep into the tunnel, but due to a design fault, the water is not running away as quickly as it should. This means the water at the base of the tunnel is sprayed up in a mist by passing trains and it corrodes the power lines. We are correcting this."

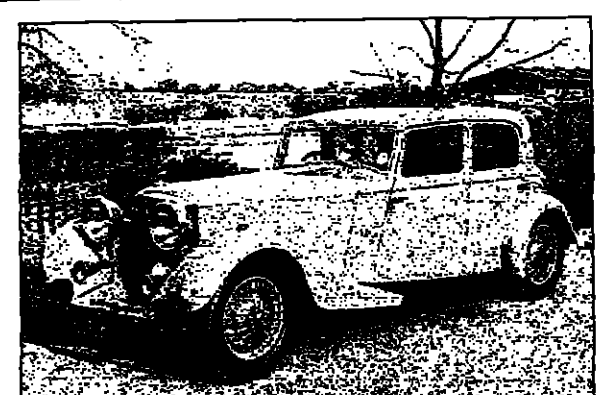
After reading "Le Shuttle's" new April guide, entitled *Now There Really is a Different Way to Cross the Channel*, all I can say is: "How true... how very, very true!"

Dr Dashboard, page 8

Racing where angels fear to tread



Old racers never die, they just keep going round and round: Tricia Pilkington in her 1932 Alfa Romeo Monza leads Martin Morris in his 1937 ERA on the Michelin test track at Clermont Ferrand



Silent runner: the 1934 3.5-litre Bentley saloon

Campbell Bentley in sale of classics

CHOOSING a car for the fastest man in the world cannot have been easy. Sir Malcolm Campbell clearly wanted comfort but needed sporting style, too (Kevin Eason writes).

Few makers in the 1930s offered enough style and substance, but Bentley was an exception. In 1934, Sir Malcolm ordered his Bentley 3.5-litre, a magnificent grand tourer which underlined Rolls-Royce's place as a manufacturer of the world's finest.

Known as "the silent sports car", Campbell's Bentley comes up for auction at the London Classic Motor Show at Alexandra Palace this weekend, one of more than 60 classics under the hammer at the celebration of some stunning cars of the past.

The show has the original MG OLD No 1, as it has become known, to celebrate 70 years of a marque finally enjoying a significant revival. There will be a 1968 Shelby Cobra, the first Vauxhall to come from the Luton factory in 1905, plus American bubble cars, American monsters, the Batmobile from the television series



Speed supreme: Sir Malcolm Campbell

former Liberal leader, is bringing his rally-hardened Rover P5.

Campbell bought his car when he was in talks with Rolls-Royce to provide engines for his world speed record car. The Bentley, with its six-cylinder water-cooled engine, is decked out in the light blue that became known as "Campbell Blue".

London Classic Motor Show, Alexandra Palace, just off Junction 2 of the M1. Open today and tomorrow, 10am-6pm; adults £5, pensioners and children under 12 £2.50. For more information, contact the organisers on 01753 611111.

Only four footprints of rubber guaranteed that Richard Pilkington was not about to send his priceless car bouncing on an unplanned high-speed trip through an acre of mud and grass.

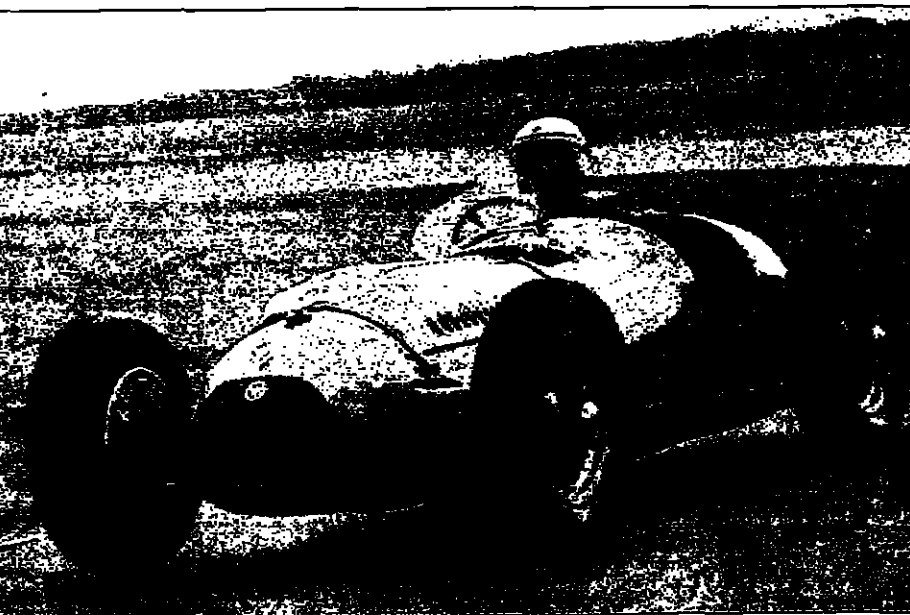
The sight and sound of the huge tyres screeching and the 1950 Talbot-Lago, once driven by Fangio, careering sideways around the tight curve seemed daunting to the small knot of onlookers. Pilkington, though, was distinctly unmoved by the experience. The car might have been made 45 years ago but the tyres were fresh from the mould.

Pilkington was one of four drivers invited to Michelin's research centre at Clermont Ferrand, deep in the heart of France. Their mission was to test a new series of tyres designed over the past two years specially for classic racers like the Talbot. It was a job like no other the Michelin men have ever tackled. They usually spend their days devising the best rubber for the latest saloons, hatchbacks and powerful sports cars. The scientists and technicians understand perfectly the technology of the modern car, but a 1950s racing car is not much like a modern family hatchback.

Michelin was not really convinced it was a job worth taking on because the market for classic racing tyres has long been dominated by Dunlop. But Jacques Rouffet, head of research into technology for older cars, turned up a piece of motoring history. Rooting around in a basement among 3,000 old tyres, he found an original tyre made in 1930 that established a link between Michelin and a racing past. The evidence convinced Michelin to give Rouffet more than £600,000 to develop a range of tyres that could compete with Dunlop and achieve up to 50,000 sales a year across Europe.

The 1930 crossply with its double rivet pattern had to be improved but Rouffet realised a modern tyre could not be too good. Today's racing cars use slick tyres with no tread which heat up and "slide" the car to

Kevin Eason gets a bracing taste of a new tyre for old speed machines at a top-secret test track in France



Burning rubber: Richard Pilkington in his 1950 Talbot-Lago, once driven by Fangio



The old and the new: Michelin's 1930 crossply, and the improved 1995 version

Do that to a veteran racer and you will end up with a broken axle because the cars are not built for those high G-forces. They were designed to slide with an ease that alarms the faint-hearted but which, in the hands of an expert, can hurry an old car round a circuit with remarkable speed.

Rouffet's problem was to

with cars half a century old are not readily available. He remembered Richard and Tricia Pilkington, a husband and wife team who have their own vintage car collection at the Tonnes Motor Museum in Devon and run Tops, a historic racing car club. The couple met him at a dinner in Monaco where they organised a classic race on the circuit

Jag was lapping three seconds quicker than the supposed American supercar.

"People do not realise just how quick these cars can be," he explained, "and these tyres really look as though they are going to give us competition for the Dunlop rubber we have used for years."

Michelin was certainly impressed, so much so that the company opened up the Clermont Ferrand research centre for *The Times* to watch the tests, the first time any journalist has got through the welter of security that surrounds the secret test track. Security was so tight that many of the 2,300 staff were sent home so I could not discover what projects they were working on.

I was, however, allowed to see the set of "antique" tyres the four English drivers were intent on burning, to discover whether they would be welcomed by enthusiastic racers who might need several sets in a season – and each tyre costs about £150.

Pilkington said: "One set could last for six to 12 races in a season if you were careful but some people want to drive flat out so they need more. Until now there has only been one source of supply so the fact that Michelin is entering the scene could be very helpful."

"The trick is for them to get the blend right. We need tyres that will work well in the wet or dry and which we could use on the track or just out on the roads. That means they have to be able to adapt to many sets of conditions."

That narrow band of rubber needs to be able to keep a Jaguar C-Type or Talbot on the track at speeds of up to 160mph, even though they represent "outdated" technology.

A trip in Green's Jag confirmed just how sturdy both car and driver can be, even if neither is in the first flush of youth. Green blasted around the track, the nose of the Jag seemingly going in the wrong direction, but we got round quite safely. I might have needed convincing that Michelin's scientists had found the right formula, but

NEWS IN BRIEF

Jaguar's XJ joins the hit parade

Demand for Jaguar's new XJ saloons is outstripping supply. Sales are up 50 per cent worldwide and in Japan they are up 85 per cent where half the allocation of 2,000 cars for this year is either sold or ordered already.

Now on release

Nissan is marking 100 years of British cinema with two special edition versions of its Sunny: the Sunny Preview is a 1.4 in three or five door model but, at £7,799, costs £1,196 less than the current 1.4L base model. The Sunny Sequel gets extra equipment, such as electric sunroof, power windows and central locking for an extra £1,200.

Boost for club

As sales grow, so does membership of Club Discovery, the organisation for owners of the Land Rover Discovery. Land Rover sold 44 per cent more Discoverys last year and the club is busily arranging this year's events. Information from Ray Grater on 01773-590500 or 01780-481339.

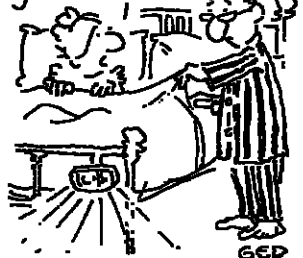
Volvo price rise

Prices of Volvo's mid-range 400 series cars go up by an average 2.5 per cent but get extra security equipment. Remote central locking, an engine immobiliser and alarm covering doors, bonnet and boot are added to all models while the range now starts at £12,850.

In the dark

When you have finished with them, turn them off... fog lamps, that is, which irritate and blind other drivers. The AA says that fog lights should be used only when visibility falls below 100 metres. Using them in normal visibility can often fool following drivers.

If you must have the eternal foglamps... turn them off before you turn in.



into miscalculating distances ahead – so switch them off when not needed.

Sold out

Aston Martin will outsell Ferrari in Britain for the first time this year. The year's production of 800 cars, including 650 new DBT sports models, is already sold out.

Golden wonder

The Honda Gold Wing has taken its place among legendary motorcycles – as recognisable as a Harley or Triumph. A new book, called simply *Honda Gold Wing*, illustrates the history of the bike from launch 21 years ago with 120 colour photographs. Published by Osprey at £10.99 or call 0171-225 9417.

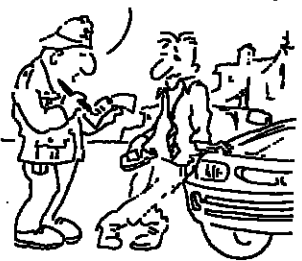
Stirling work

Stirling Moss will launch the 70th anniversary celebrations for MG at the Heritage Motor Centre, Gaydon, next week. Moss will host a discussion session and a number of classic MGs are on display. Anyone turning up in an MG

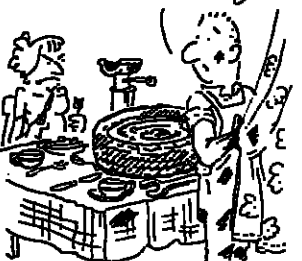
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CAR TOONS

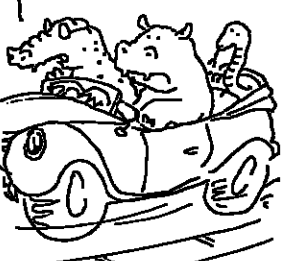
A little problem with our automatic stability control, have we, sir?



You found all this so amusing before I moved in with you



I don't like that rattle in the back



Lift, darling?



No thanks... I'm in a hurry



GED MELLING

Vaughan Freeman on an incentive scheme to force smoky, dangerous cars off the road

Pay drivers £1,000 for dirty old bangers

Pressure is growing on the Government from carmakers, dealers and industry analysts to introduce a cash-for-wrecks scheme that would help to drive fume-belching old bangers off the roads and give an incentive to motorists who want, but cannot afford, a new car.

In July, Ireland will become the latest European country to introduce such a scheme. The Irish programme will run for 18 months and will entitle drivers of cars which are ten or more years old to a grant of £1,000 towards the cost of a new car, provided they agree to have their old one scrapped. The initiative follows the success of similar schemes in France and Spain, under which financial incentives from the government have been matched by motor manufacturers. In France, owners of cars over ten years old go to a dealer and give him their vehicle for scrap. In return, the motorist receives a voucher worth around £1,200 against the value of a new car, and it is then the dealer's responsibility to scrap or recycle the old one. The dealer can reclaim half the £1,200 from the government. The scheme helped to increase new car sales in France by 14 per cent last year.

In Spain, a similar £1,000 inducement helped to push up new car sales by 19 per cent. It is estimated that a combined total of 300,000 old cars have been scrapped in France and Spain as a result. Advocates stress that such schemes are not compulsory and there would be exceptions for vintage and classic vehicles.

Car manufacturers and dealers have obvious reasons for supporting such schemes, but governments justify them because they eliminate those cars which are the least safe and the most polluting.

It is estimated that the worst pollution among Britain's 25 million vehicles comes from the five million badly-maintained cars that are more than eight years old.

Research by the RAC reveals that 12 per cent of cars in Britain, the overwhelming majority of which are more than seven or eight years old, produce more than half of all

vehicle exhaust pollution. Recent European legislation, which demanded that all new cars sold be fitted with catalytic converters which ensure the car has to run on unleaded fuel, means today's cars emit 93 per cent less carbon monoxide and 85 per cent less hydrocarbons and nitrogen oxide than cars built in 1970.

Ian McAllister, chairman of Ford UK, is chief among those calling for the introduction of a British cash-for-wrecks scheme. He says: "It is time for

the Government to look at the actions taken in France and Spain to stimulate sales of new cars and, more importantly, to encourage the removal from our roads of the older vehicles that do the most damage."

Alan Pulham, director of the National Franchised Dealers Association, says: "We can no longer remain blind to society's changing view towards the motor vehicle."

"The lengthy recession has slowed replacement cycles and we have to recognise that the

ageing vehicle park is impacting on the environment. The argument seems to me to be clear. Today's new car imposes a dramatically reduced footprint on the environment, whichever emissions we are measuring, and we must work to make this message understood by both the Government and the general public."

Andrew Wilkinson, chief economist with CAP Nationwide Motor Research, says:

"Schemes such as buy-backs, or cash for scrap, could save motorists £1,000 and more off the cost of their next car — a massive incentive to ditch their old banger."

"Even cars built only six or seven years ago do not have airbags, and will almost certainly be missing safety features that are fitted now as a matter of course on new cars, such as anti-lock braking systems, side-impact bars and anti-submarining seats [which help prevent abdominal injuries]."

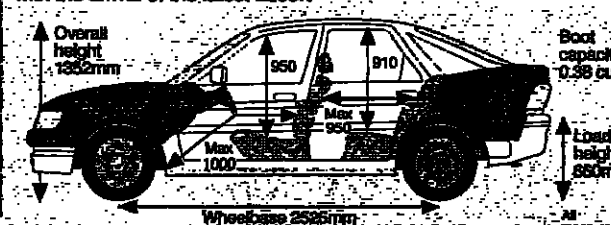
"A ten-year-old car might well reach motorway speeds, but the thought of it trying to stop in an emergency in time to avoid a hard-braking ABS-equipped vehicle in front is a chilling one."

USED CAR BRIEF



FORD ESCORT XR3i

The XR3i first appeared in 1982 in 1.6-litre form, and since then has won a reputation as possibly the best politically correct of cars. It is fast (120mph), cheap, and has been blessed for almost a decade for its single-handily raising insurance premiums because it fell into the hands of inexperienced young drivers. Even so, the car offers cheap performance driving, and was much mourned when it was phased out with the arrival of the latest Escort.



GOOD NEWS: Parts are plentiful and every garage knows how to work on a Ford so repair and servicing rates are low. Plenty were made, and prices are low, so the would-be buyer is spoilt for choice.

BAD NEWS: Large numbers of XR3is have been stolen and/or crashed, so take steps to ensure the car you are buying is being sold legally and is not in fact a put-together crashed insurance write-off.

SAFETY RATING: The Department of Transport rates the Escort slightly above average for crash protection.

REPLACEMENT PARTS: (Price includes VAT): clutch assembly £25; full exhaust £150; front damper £50; front brakepads £45; alternator (exchange) £25; starter motor (exchange) £35; Tyre £50-65.

TO AVOID: Ensure the VIN (vehicle identification number) on the car matches the one on the documents. If not, your car might have been "ringed" — that is stolen and had its identity changed. Watch for crash damage, worn front brake discs and wheel bearings, rust along door sills, and can't tell wet.

INSURANCE: Fully comprehensive cover on a 1992 Escort XR3i through AA Insurance (0800 444777) will cost a 55-year-old male or female, living in Winchester, with full no claims bonus, £326 a year. A 22-year-old male with one year's no claims bonus, living in south London, will pay an eye-watering £4,527.33, and a 22-year-old female in south London will pay £5,523.80.

PRICE RANGE: Pre-1986 cars should be available for under £1,000. Expect to pay £2,500 for a 1.6-litre, 1980 G-reg model, £5,000 for a 1.8-litre, 1980 H-reg cabriolet, £6,750 for a 1983 L-reg, 1.8-litre, 16 valve (105bhp) model, and £8,750 for a 1989 K-reg, 1.8-litre, 16 valve (130bhp) cabriolet.

LOOK FOR: Start with post-1985 models, when the car was face-lifted with central locking, sunroof and electric windows, more efficient engines, steering and suspension improvements. The new XR3i, in 1.8-litre 105 bhp and 130 bhp guise, appeared in 1992, and is worth seeking out as examples now sell for less than half their cost new. Cabriolet versions, introduced in 1984, are fun, but ensure hood is in first-rate repair since replacing the three-layer roof is expensive.

OVERALL: The market in GTIs collapsed around four years ago when so-called "tyrodies" were stealing security-fleet models at will and insurance premiums were given. Now are now offering impressive discounts to GTI owners who fit approved security devices to their cars. For such drivers the XR3i can provide the most motoring fun on a tight budget.

50 BESTSELLING USED CARS

MODEL	PRICE	Feb-95 Mar-95	Chge
Rover 214 SLi 5dr	9295	8650	-3.71
Ford Fiesta 1.1 LX 5dr	8895	8895	0
Peugeot 405 1.6 GLI 4dr	8550	8350	-2.34
Vauxhall Corsa 1.2 LS 3dr	8895	8650	-0.67
Peugeot 306 1.4 XL 5dr	8625	8395	-2.68
Mazda 2.0i GLX 5dr	13450	12995	-3.38
Toyota MR2 GT 2dr	18150	17750	-2.2
Fiat Panda 1000 CLX 3dr	4375	4375	0.00
BMW 320i 4dr	17895	17895	0.00
Mercedes-Benz C180 Classic 4dr	17895	17295	-1.7
Volvo 850 GLT 20V 4dr	15750	15750	0.00
Volkswagen Corrado 2.0i	15750	15895	0.92
Saab 9000 CDE 2.3 4dr	22250	22250	0.00
Mazda MX6	14895	14795	-0.67
Skoda Favorit LX 5dr	4525	4485	-0.86
Ford Granada Ghia 5dr	13295	12750	-4.1
Honda Accord 1.6 LX 4dr	13550	13095	-3.36
Renault 19 RN 5dr	8295	7975	-3.86
Suzuki Vitara JLX 3dr	10195	10295	0.98
Mitsubishi Galant 1.8 GLSi 4dr	10895	10485	-1.87
Audi 80 2.0E 4dr	12850	12550	-2.33
Renault Safrane 2.0 RN 5dr	12295	12495	-1.6
Citroen AX GTI 3dr	7450	7450	0.00
Vauxhall Calibra 2.0i 3dr	14150	13450	-4.95
Toyota Corolla 1.3 GLI 5dr	9975	9975	0.00
Proton Persona 1.5 GLSi 5dr	8725	8725	0.00
Volvo 460 1.8U 4dr	9575	9575	0.00
Volkswagen Polo 1.3 CL 3dr	6395	6395	0.00
Seat Ibiza 1.4 CLX 5dr	7095	7095	0.00
Hyundai X2 1.5 GSi 5dr	6525	6475	-0.77
Ford Mondeo 1.6 LX 5dr	9950	9500	-4.53
Ford Escort 1.6 LX 5dr	8895	8895	0.00
Vauxhall Cavalier 1.8 LS 5dr	9195	8995	-1.7
Vauxhall Astra 1.4 LS 5dr	8450	8195	-3.02
Rover 414 SLi 4dr	9095	8895	-2.2
Rover Metro 1.1 S 5dr	6295	6250	-0.72
Citroen Xantia 1.8i LX 5dr	10595	10395	-1.99
Rover 620 SLi 4dr	14950	14795	-1.04
Renault Clio 1.2RL Prima 3dr	6095	6095	0.00
Volkswagen Golf CL 5dr	8895	8895	0.00
Nissan Primera 1.6LX 5dr	9275	9275	0.00
Nissan Micra 1.0i 5dr	6250	6250	0.00
Renault Laguna 1.8RN 5dr	9875	9875	0.00
Peugeot 106 1.1XR 3dr	5875	5850	-0.37
Rover 620 Si 4dr	14095	13895	-1.42
Vauxhall Omega 2.0i CD Auto 4dr	17895	17195	-3.92
Citroen ZX 1.4 Aventure 5dr	7750	7575	-2.9
Toyota Carina E GLI 5dr	11150	11150	0.00
Honda Civic LSi 3dr	10195	9875	-2.71
Fiat Punto SS 3dr	5995	5995	0.00

Prices rounded to simulate actual dealer knockout prices. H3 = hatchback, S = saloon. Price changes based on L-reg, low mileage cars. Figures supplied by CAP Nationwide Motor Research.

NEARLY half the motorists questioned in an AA survey want garages to give a full and simple explanation of work that is to be carried out on their cars.

"Garages are letting themselves down by not giving customers more information," said John Anderson, the AA's consumer policy manager. "The survey found that 13 per cent of motorists were given bills that did not itemise labour costs, parts or VAT. One in 20 customers complained that they had been charged for things that didn't need changing."

The questions to 1,000 drivers also revealed that one in ten motorists was baffled by the technical jargon used by mechanics and a few (7 per cent) complained that they were told nothing about the work done on their vehicles. The AA's advice? Shop around; never be shy about asking for explanations; get a written quote and insist that any other work must be authorised. If you pay for something you don't like the look of write: "Paid under protest" on the bill and head for the nearest AA or Trading Standards office.

LEFT HAND DRIVE

MAZDA MX6 Auto, Red, Alloy 2.0i 16V 2000 cc, 150 bhp, 150,000 miles, 1994, 1510.

RAIR opportunity. Quality. See the new LK with G4 warranty. ABS, air bag, leather upholstery etc. H reg, 11,000 miles only in new, accept £13,995. Tel: 01747 550205.

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- Electric Windows
- Security System with Memory
- Central Computer

OTHER CARS: HONDA BEAT, MAZDA MX6 AUTO, MITSUBISHI PTO, TOYOTA SEDAN, NISSAN FRONTALIER, NISSAN GT-R.

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COUPE and other unusual cars from the UK's leading specialist. Best imports 0754 733544.

02920 5444, Standard Metallic. 1 Private owner. Low mileage. Unusually clean. 2000 cc, 150 bhp, 150,000 miles, 1994, 1510.

LS400 Auto M reg Boston green metallic / Coloured leather 1 owner. 4000 miles, 1994, 1510. £29,995. 01422 344444. Open 7 days.

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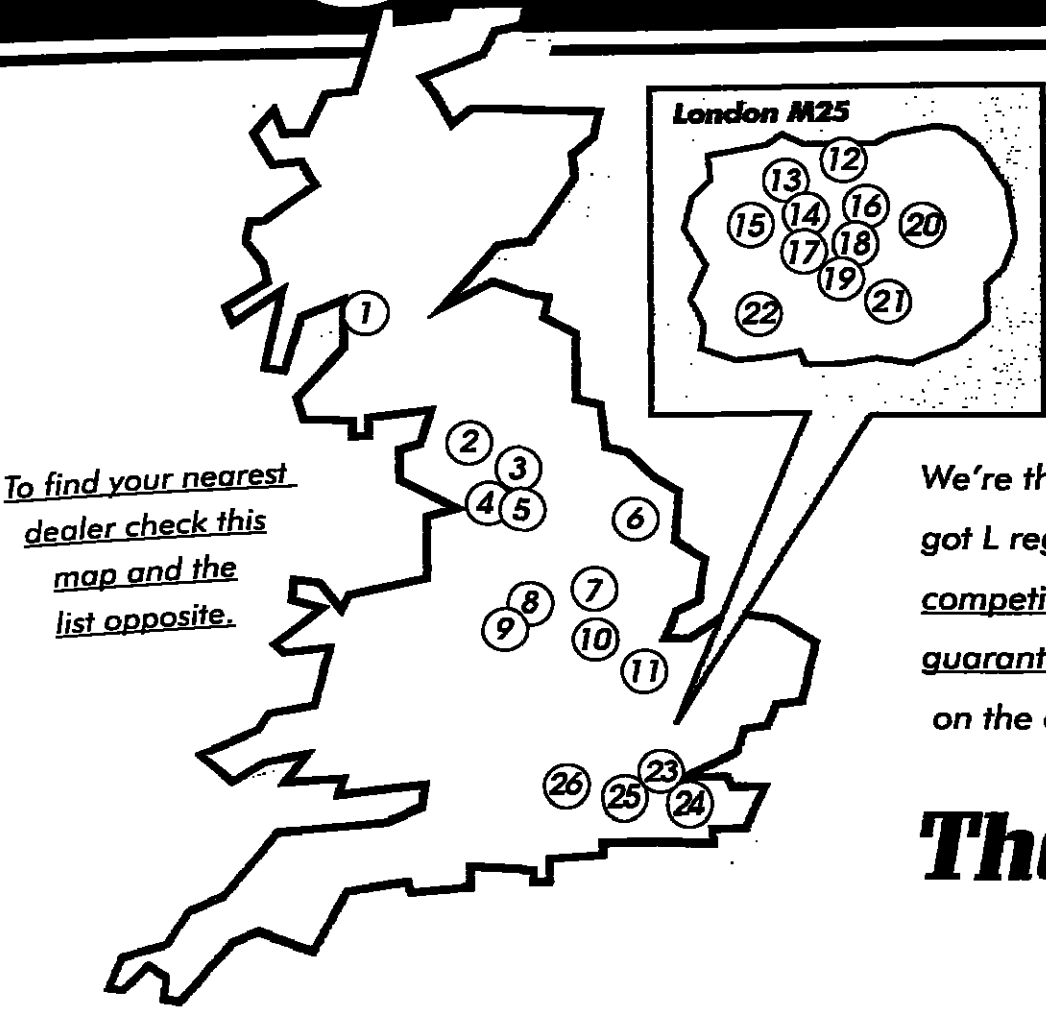
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Peugeots in the country...



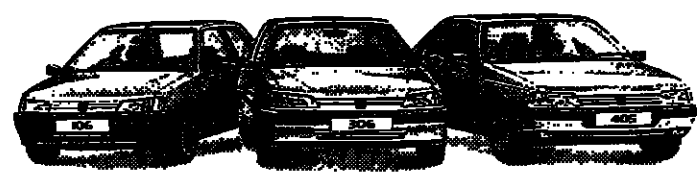
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L Reg Peugeot 405 from £6995



THE TIMES ROAD TEST: Kevin Eason, motoring correspondent, takes a Citroën TD on a 2,000-mile jaunt

Black mark taints a nippy diesel

That blast of black smoke from the exhaust each time the engine rattled into life was the least convincing evidence in the case for diesel.

The rise and rise of diesel is the motoring phenomenon of recent times, with diesel models once as rare as a Tory MP in Scotland now accounting for a quarter of new car sales.

Motorsists searching for ways to cut their bills leapt on diesel, further seduced by claims that it was more environmentally friendly. But the case so convincingly put for years by French and German carmakers now looks more difficult to justify.

Government medics have singled out diesel as the main contributor to the smoky, sootily air that covers our towns and cities. Furthermore, claims of the savings to be made are crumbling. Diesel is about the same price per litre as unleaded petrol and there are a growing number of petrol-driven models that can be as frugal as diesel.

Toyota's new British-built Celica E. That has a lean-burn 1.8-litre engine which offers nearly 35 miles to each gallon of unleaded around town, yet is sweet and smooth to drive.

If that all sounds as though I needed convincing about diesel, then Citroën thought so



Good-looker with a bad habit: the Xantia 1.9TD was fine on motorways, but a little unpleasant whenever started up

and put me at the wheel of the Xantia 1.9TD, judged Family Car of the Year by *What Car?*. The Xantia is a good-looker, a mid-range car with one of the few distinctive shapes on the road at the moment.

With 2,000 miles to cover across France and Switzerland in four days, the Xantia was under the cosh from the start. Turning the key in the ignition

revealed a slow starter, with the coil taking several tedious seconds to warm up before the engine would fire.

The first pumping of the pistons led inevitably to that plume of smelly and unpleasant black smoke. Can anybody really tell me that my mini-smog bank was not harmful? Once under way, though, the Xantia was as smooth and

easy to drive as any of its petrol rivals. The neat, quick five-speed transmission had long legs in each change to make use of the diesel's torque, which meant a flick down to third for overtaking helped the Xantia make maximum use of engine power.

The 1.9TD was helped by a remarkably unobtrusive turbo-charger. Most turbos burst

in like an uninvited drunk at a dinner party, pressing the driver back into the seat as the car surges forward when it suddenly cuts in. The Xantia diesel needed turbo aid because acceleration would have been pretty turgid without it, but at least it entered without fuss.

Going into junctions slowly in second gear, I flattened the

throttle and discovered not much happening for a few nail-biting seconds in which a normally aspirated petrol car would have been up and away. It was not until the revs rose and the turbo cut in that acceleration picked up, and that lag was a downside of the car.

Where the Xantia came into its own was on the motorway. I was initially daunted by the thought of having to spend hours listening to the diesel rattle and pressing the throttle to the floor, but the Xantia ploughed along happily at a steady 80mph. The penalty for such high-speed cruising, however, was relatively poor economy, with the car returning about 28 miles to the gallon.

So would a diesel Xantia be better than a petrol car? The Xantia 1.9TD is a fine car... but somebody needs to convince me beyond doubt that the exhaust cloud is harmless and that the age of petrol is over before I invest in one.

Technical details.
Price: £14,840.
Engine: four-cylinder turbo-charged diesel producing 92 horse power through five-speed manual gearbox. Front-wheel-drive.

Performance: 0-60mph in 11.6 seconds, top speed 111mph, 37.2mpg around town.

Car 95 secures fault refund

THE owner of a Renault 5 has won a refund thanks to *Car 95* after being forced to pay for a modification the company has carried out free for thousands of motorists (Tony Dawe writes).

Stephen Barnett, of Guildford, Surrey, contacted *Car 95* to complain of Renault's "grossly unfair" attitude in suddenly changing its policy and refusing to accept responsibility for a clutch modification on several models. His complaint was one of many, reflecting growing concern among motorists about the way manufacturers handle essential repairs.

The clutch problem affecting the Renault 5, 19 and Clio resulted from a design fault which caused the

cable to fail prematurely. The company agreed to change the clutch pedal and cable without charge whenever they failed or owners experienced problems with them. It decided, however, that the problem was not "safety related" and that a recall was unnecessary.

Mr Barnett, his wife and daughter all drive Renaults and his wife's 19 was modified last year. "Early this year, the clutch cable failed on my daughter's Renault 5," he said. "My local dealer said initially it would be modified free of charge but we were told later that Renault

had changed its policy and we would have to pay."

"This attitude is unforgivable. By its previous actions, Renault had admitted an annoying and inconvenient design fault but is now washing its hands of the problem. I was so disgusted that I bought a clutch pedal kit and fitted it myself."

When contacted by *Car 95*, a Renault spokesman explained: "We decided to remedy cars up to five years old and thought by that time we would have absorbed most of the ones affected. Mr Barnett should not, however, have been told

one thing and then another. We will refund his costs and check over his work."

Don Williams of Oxted, Surrey, encountered a different problem when he took his Citroën Xantia into dealers for a handbrake modification. The work was carried out free of charge but he believes the modification made his car "less safe" than it had been with the fault.

Mr Williams, a qualified engineer, said: "The modification is simply the removal of the first few teeth from the handbrake ratchet, which was satisfied with it."

handbrake is vital for safe driving and I am astounded that a modification which leaves a car with only two positions, 'fully on' and 'fully off', should be agreed.

"A further unsafe feature is that if the new first tooth of the ratchet was to fail or become worn, the modified handbrake would fly instantly to 'fully off', with potentially lethal results. On a normal handbrake, the intermediate teeth, even if not used, are a safety feature."

"At my insistence, Citroën has now restored my Xantia to its original safe condition." The company said: "The modification was agreed with the Department of Transport's vehicle inspectorate, which was satisfied with it."

DR DASHBOARD

Should I take my car on holiday?

Q We want to take the family on a touring holiday in Europe. Is it cheaper to take our own car across the Channel or fly and hire one there?

A It sounds obvious, but that depends where you are going and how much you like driving. Cost the options carefully and don't forget motorway tolls and overnight stops. Hiring a family-size car in some countries such as Italy or France can be expensive, so even a lengthy drive could be justified. But in Spain rates are reasonable and there are plenty of cheap charter flights, so fly-drive can save money.

Q We love driving in France but are not keen on the ferry. Do we need to book to go through the Channel Tunnel?

A Yes. The ads that say "just turn up and get on" sound good as a lot of special day-trip offers. But last weekend's incidents at Folkestone show how quickly Le Shuttle can fill up. Advance booking: 0990 353535.

Q Do I still need a GB plate?

A Yes. It's a legal requirement. Far more important is a set of stickers or clip-on headlamp defectors to change the beams of your lights and prevent you dazzling oncoming drivers.

Q Is my British insurance valid in Europe or do I still need a Green Card?

A All UK motor policies give third-party cover in EU countries, but if you have comprehensive cover you will have to pay an extra premium to extend it. If you go outside the EU you will also have to pay a

surcharge. Contact your insurance company first and ask for a Green Card, even where it's not compulsory it is still recommended and many insurers issue one free. In Spain or Greece you also need a bail bond.

Q What about cover for breakdowns?

A The AA (Five-star service) and the RAC (Eurocover) provide packages for members and non-members. These vary according to age of car, number of passengers and whether you want to include personal cover. An approximate cost is £125 to £130 for motor and personal cover for a car with two adults and three children for two weeks. Many travel agents and holiday operators offer similar packages but check the small print carefully. Cover for stand-in car hire and repatriating a car can vary widely.

Q Do I need an international licence?

A Only if you are going to countries in the former Eastern bloc or if you want to drive in Spain on an old-style green British licence.

Q Are laws the same throughout the EU?

A Even though the EU is trying to harmonise everything in sight there is a long way to go on the road. For example, in Greece you must carry a fire extinguisher while in Spain a set of spare bulbs is compulsory. Speed limits vary, too. In Germany there is still no maximum on the autobahn, while in France limits are automatically reduced when it rains. Regulations about the use of child safety seats also vary widely. Contact your motoring organisation for fuller details.

NISSAN AUTHORISED DEALERS

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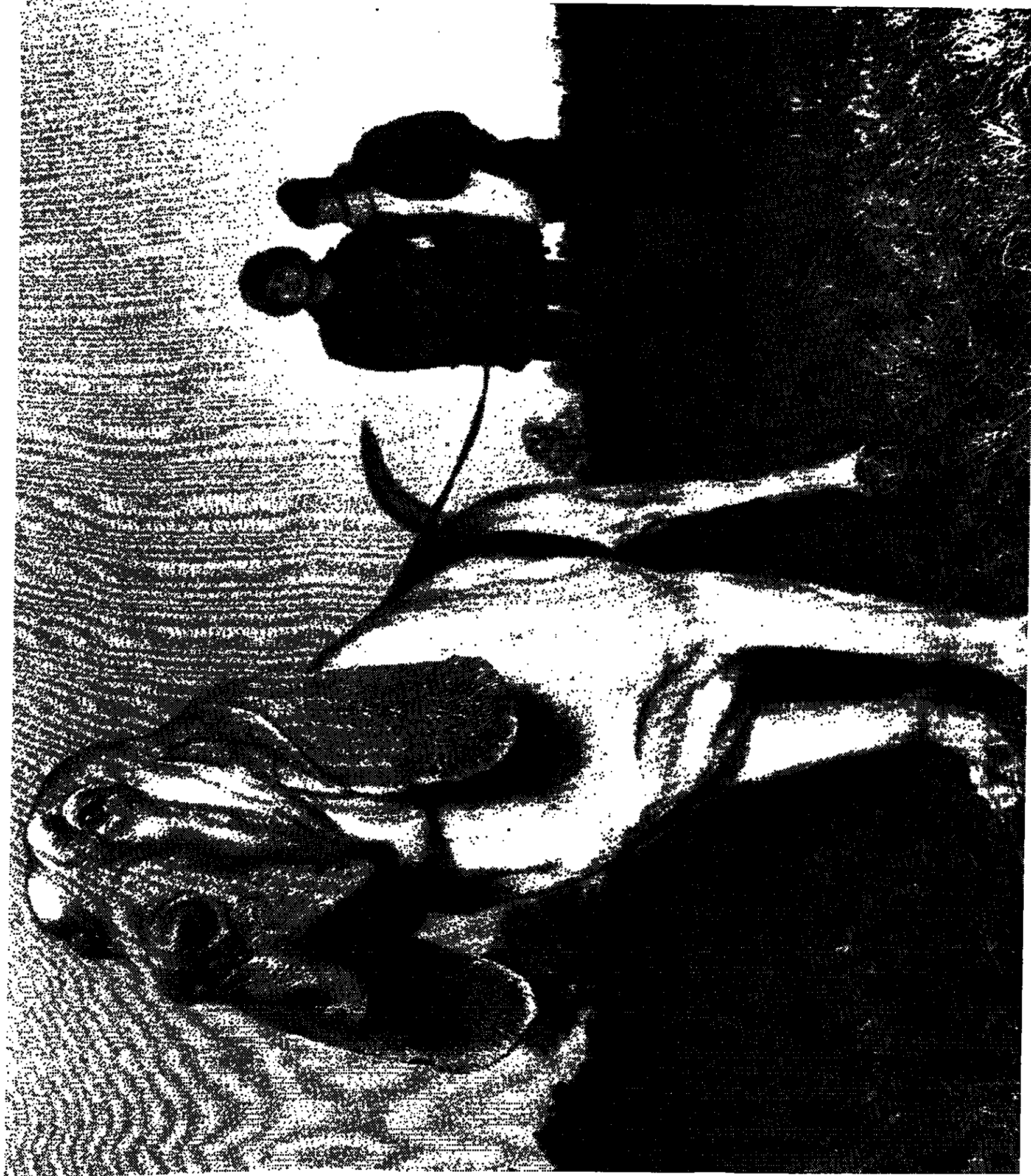
A CHANNEL HOPPER'S GUIDE TO THE WEEK'S TV AND RADIO

SEVEN DAYS TV

10-23

THAMES

WOMAN



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A CHANNEL HOPPER'S GUIDE TO THE WEEK'S TV AND RADIO

SEVEN DAYS RADIO
24-27

THE TIMES

VISION

SATURDAY 18 — FRIDAY 24 MARCH 1995

SCIENCE WEEK

3 The flea:
and other
wonders of
the world

NEW SERIES

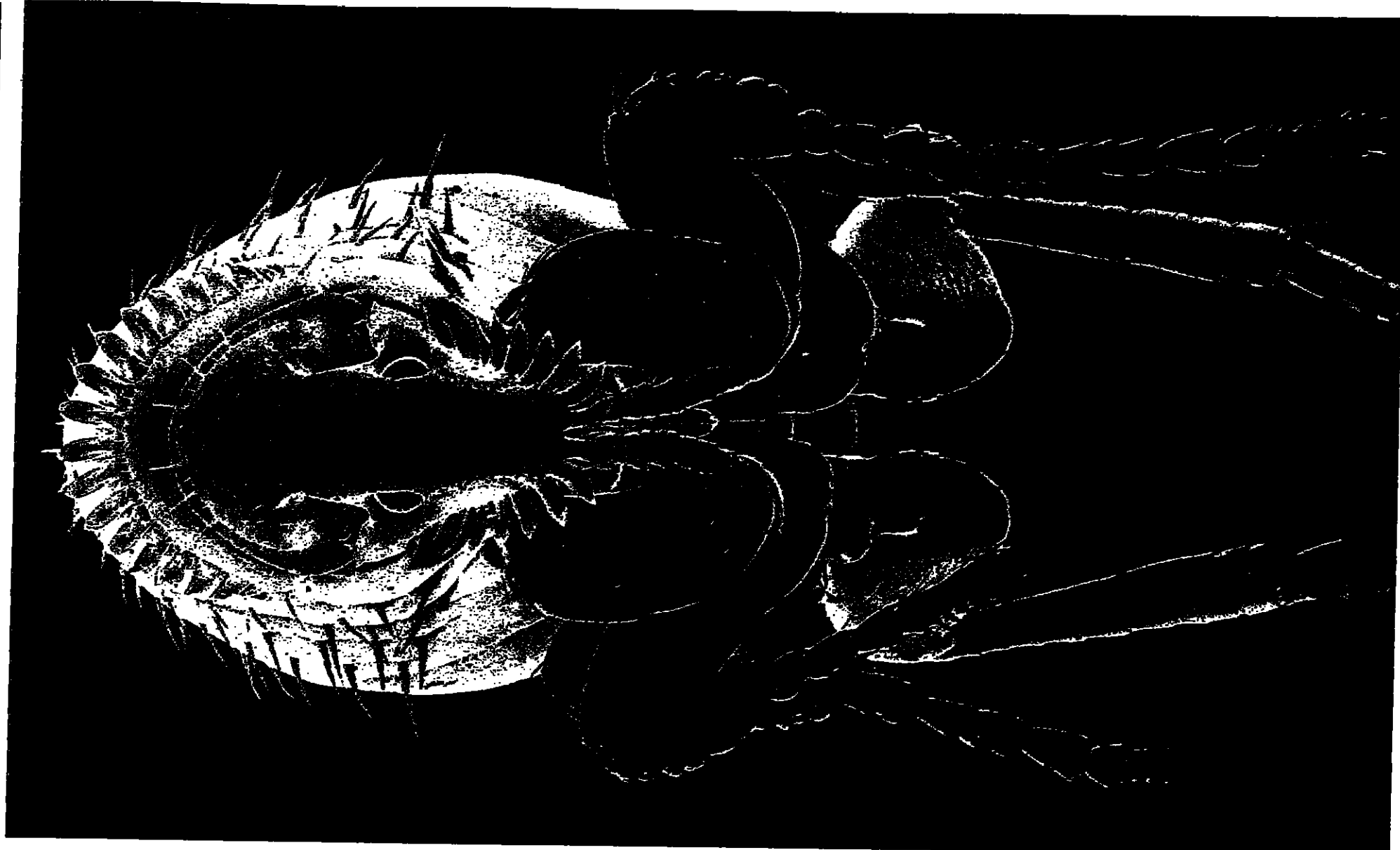
5 Whose
news is it
anyway?

DRAMA

**The return
of Ruth
Rendell**

FILM

**Dirty
Harry - and
the best of
the rest**



Always read the label.

OFF THE BOX

On the beach at last

FEARS that *The Brighton Boys*, a first full-length drama serial from TONY MCHALE, a senior writer on *EastEnders*, would never reach BBC1 screens, have been allayed. The eight episodes, produced by Barry Hinson for London Films, have been re-edited to five and the title has been changed to *Reverend Mr. Anderson*. The news comes as a relief to two of the stars, Ben Chaplin and David Daker, currently in *Crime One* and *Crown Prosecutors* respectively.

In the serial, shot in Brighton, Chaplin plays an Oxford student driven to help his unemployed, arcade-owning father (Daker) when the latter is accused of killing his wife. The delay has not stopped exports to ten countries so far. "We hope it will be seen here in the late Spring," though Croatia may see it first, says a spokesman for London Films.

FORMER England football team manager Graham Taylor's sprawling recent film has been recommended to be broadcast by BBC1. The multi-faceted story of the manager's fall from grace, set in the 1970s, is to be shown on Wednesday on Discovery (see page 18). The producer, Lloyd Stanbury, knew he had to adjust the film's sound to distribute the East Enders' frequent explicit scenes as they were filmed, setting buildings in fire and rain, often to a background of complaints. But the banners at the match, Taylor's score almost doubled theirs.

Take a break

HOLBY hospital, in *Casualty*, is currently without consultant Mike Baratt, who left saying he was attending a course and trying to revive his marriage. The truth is that Clive Mantle, who plays him, has become a drunken, unbalanced pool-player. Admittedly it's only for half an hour — in *Scene*, the school drama series, on Friday. But he is conducting in Al Hunter. Ashworth's touching story of teenage romance.

WHY should babies born to mothers in a midlife crisis Glasgow suburb expect to live ten years longer than those born on a council estate? BBC1's *Bodyguards* (Sunday morning) explores an uneasy truce between a police officer, Richard Smith, the editor of the *Brighton Medical Journal*. Why? The interviewer is a man who smokes, drinks, and looks as though he never goes to bed before dawn. He's also the doctor's brother, cometh an Arthur Smith.

HILARY KINGSLEY

Alter anything but the spirit to television, Ruth Rendell tells Hilary Kingsley what can be lost in translation

An early screening of *Vanity Dies Hard*, the latest dramatization of a Ruth Rendell mystery novel, the actress Rebecca Lacey, who plays a main character, with the comment: "I've been looking forward to this." Another beautiful in this. "Another lovely prompt to disagree. 'Oh, she has a very strong character face but she isn't lovely and beautiful at all'."

Curlew was not dismayed. For this was the opinion of Ruth Rendell, and if the success of her work with television audiences is anything to go by, she knows a thing or two. Rendell is now 65, and in more than 20 years of book writing, she has never softened or sentimentalised her voice, preferring instead to explore the often dark, disturbed characters' minds.

She has published more than 40 best-selling novels with a great variety of themes and settings but all carrying a clear, usually socialising message. Of those, 17 feature the buxom, thoughtful Inspector Wexford, though the Inspector Wexford and have been turned by the producer Neil Ziegler into 10 hours of television since the mid-1980s for TVS and Meridian. A new Wexford story, *Strawberry*, goes into production in a few months with a script from Alan Plater.

Non-Wexford books will soon equal this tally, it seems. After *Vanity Dies Hard*, a three-part serial, *The Strawberry Tree*, a two-part, follows it to TV. Next year will see three more serials already filmed: the first story *Heartstrings*, the second *Case of Conscience*, set in the 1930s, and *The Secret House of Deeds*, a Hitchcockian thriller.

On top of this, the BBC is making a new series of *Vanity Dies Hard* novels with a great variety of themes and settings but all carrying a clear, usually socialising message. Of those, 17 feature the buxom, thoughtful Inspector Wexford, though the Inspector Wexford and have been turned by the producer Neil Ziegler into 10 hours of television since the mid-1980s for TVS and Meridian. A new Wexford story, *Strawberry*, goes into production in a few months with a script from Alan Plater.

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Eleanor David (Alice) and Mark Frankel (Andrew), a couple whose wedding is the catalyst to the plot of *Vanity Dies Hard*

Is *Space Precinct* a police series or a fantasy? Matthew Bond discovers it is both

Take off on the Demeter beat

VERY Anderson has seen the future. In fact, the future of science fiction is being written by him. His new series, *Space Precinct*, is a police series or a fantasy? Matthew Bond discovers it is both.



Anderson stresses that the new show is science fiction, not fiction, and that it is a police series. It is a police series, he says, but it is also a science fiction series. It is a police series, he says, but it is also a science fiction series. It is a police series, he says, but it is also a science fiction series.

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CHOICE: a murder mystery; teenage sex remembered; a Caribbean travelogue; fantasy football

Red herrings, red faces, bananas and nutcases

Ruth Rendell, country life, round about a pretty town in southern England, where dark and disturbing forces lurk beneath the benign surface. Alice Rendell, a teacher in her late thirties, is married to a man who is a teacher in her late thirties. Alice Rendell, a teacher in her late thirties, is married to a man who is a teacher in her late thirties.

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Eleanor David, marrying in *Vanity Dies Hard*

BBC1	
6.00am Business Breakfast (10.30am)	7.00am BBC Breakfast News (5.55am-6.25am)
8.00am News (6.57am)	10.00am News (Regional News and Weather)
10.05am Eastenders (7.20am-7.50am)	10.30am Good Morning with Anne and Nick (7.55am-8.30am)
12.00pm News (Regional News and Weather)	12.05pm Pebble Mill (8.15am-8.30am)
12.55pm Regional News and Weather (8.57am-9.25am)	1.30pm News and Weather (9.12am-9.25am)
1.30pm News and Weather (9.12am-9.25am)	1.40pm Crown Prosecutors: Sheila and Ben are on (9.25am-9.40am)
2.20pm Holiday, Overy and Sheffield, southern (9.40am-9.55am)	2.30pm The Flying Doctors: The Climber (9.55am-10.10am)
3.35pm Cartoons (9.57am-10.10am)	4.00pm News (Regional News and Weather)
4.10pm News (Regional News and Weather)	4.15pm News (Regional News and Weather)
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22 SATELLITE

FRIDAY MARCH 24

Laughter can last forever



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Rendezvous and reconciliations

David Robinson makes his Pick of the Week and John Marriott (below and overleaf) rounds up the best of the rest. Richard Scott highlights the Romantic Drama and Drama of the Week on pages 8 and 9. Transmission times, published in good faith, may be altered. Videoplus numbers are found on pages 10 to 23.



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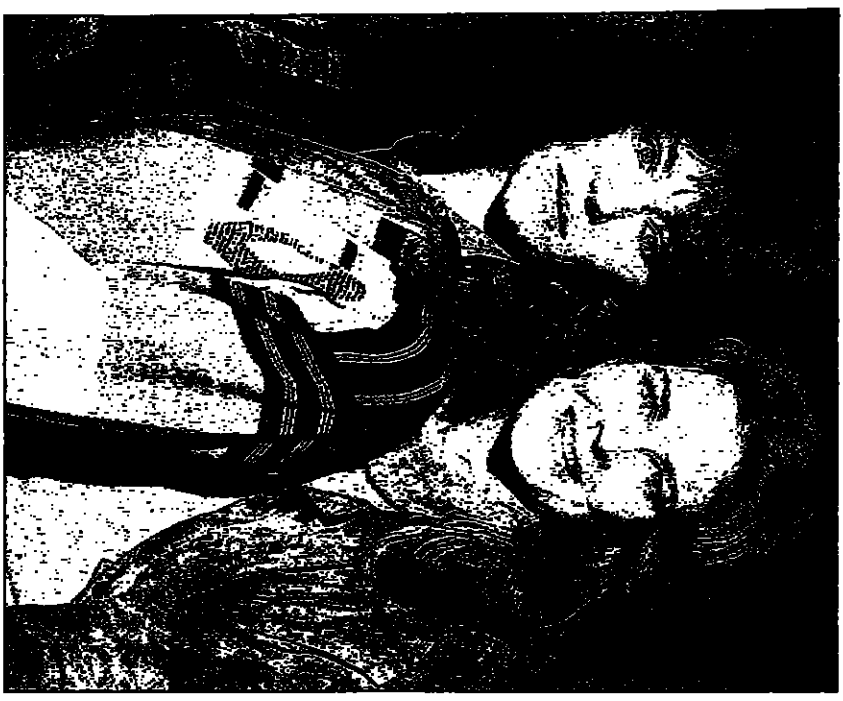
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SUNDAY MARCH 19

Lifelong friends and rivals

CANDICE BERGEN and Jacques Bisset (right) co-star in *Rich and Famous* (TV, 1995), a 1991 film which was the last by the great director George Cukor (1896-1983). He was known as an "actor's director", or even more specifically a "women's director", from his sympathetic handling of such stars as Greer Garbo, Katharine Hepburn and Jean Crawford. He relished the challenge in his eighties, for this remaking of the 1943 hit *The Women*, which featured Bette Davis and Marjorie Main. Bergen and Bisset as college friends whose subsequent literary careers take very different courses, and whose relationship over the years is one of love-hate. Meg Ryan, still a teenager and just out of high school, plays Bergen's daughter in her film debut.



VARIATIONS

ANGLO
As London except: 12.20pm Food Guide (BBC1), 12.30pm News (BBC1), 1.00pm The Big Breakfast (BBC1), 1.30pm The Big Breakfast (BBC1), 2.00pm The Big Breakfast (BBC1), 2.30pm The Big Breakfast (BBC1), 3.00pm The Big Breakfast (BBC1), 3.30pm The Big Breakfast (BBC1), 4.00pm The Big Breakfast (BBC1), 4.30pm The Big Breakfast (BBC1), 5.00pm The Big Breakfast (BBC1), 5.30pm The Big Breakfast (BBC1), 6.00pm The Big Breakfast (BBC1), 6.30pm The Big Breakfast (BBC1), 7.00pm The Big Breakfast (BBC1), 7.30pm The Big Breakfast (BBC1), 8.00pm The Big Breakfast (BBC1), 8.30pm The Big Breakfast (BBC1), 9.00pm The Big Breakfast (BBC1), 9.30pm The Big Breakfast (BBC1), 10.00pm The Big Breakfast (BBC1), 10.30pm The Big Breakfast (BBC1), 11.00pm The Big Breakfast (BBC1), 11.30pm The Big Breakfast (BBC1), 12.00pm The Big Breakfast (BBC1).

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CENTRAL

As London except: 12.20pm Food Guide (BBC1), 12.30pm News (BBC1), 1.00pm The Big Breakfast (BBC1), 1.30pm The Big Breakfast (BBC1), 2.00pm The Big Breakfast (BBC1), 2.30pm The Big Breakfast (BBC1), 3.00pm The Big Breakfast (BBC1), 3.30pm The Big Breakfast (BBC1), 4.00pm The Big Breakfast (BBC1), 4.30pm The Big Breakfast (BBC1), 5.00pm The Big Breakfast (BBC1), 5.30pm The Big Breakfast (BBC1), 6.00pm The Big Breakfast (BBC1), 6.30pm The Big Breakfast (BBC1), 7.00pm The Big Breakfast (BBC1), 7.30pm The Big Breakfast (BBC1), 8.00pm The Big Breakfast (BBC1), 8.30pm The Big Breakfast (BBC1), 9.00pm The Big Breakfast (BBC1), 9.30pm The Big Breakfast (BBC1), 10.00pm The Big Breakfast (BBC1), 10.30pm The Big Breakfast (BBC1), 11.00pm The Big Breakfast (BBC1), 11.30pm The Big Breakfast (BBC1), 12.00pm The Big Breakfast (BBC1).

HTV WEST

As London except: 12.20pm Food Guide (BBC1), 12.30pm News (BBC1), 1.00pm The Big Breakfast (BBC1), 1.30pm The Big Breakfast (BBC1), 2.00pm The Big Breakfast (BBC1), 2.30pm The Big Breakfast (BBC1), 3.00pm The Big Breakfast (BBC1), 3.30pm The Big Breakfast (BBC1), 4.00pm The Big Breakfast (BBC1), 4.30pm The Big Breakfast (BBC1), 5.00pm The Big Breakfast (BBC1), 5.30pm The Big Breakfast (BBC1), 6.00pm The Big Breakfast (BBC1), 6.30pm The Big Breakfast (BBC1), 7.00pm The Big Breakfast (BBC1), 7.30pm The Big Breakfast (BBC1), 8.00pm The Big Breakfast (BBC1), 8.30pm The Big Breakfast (BBC1), 9.00pm The Big Breakfast (BBC1), 9.30pm The Big Breakfast (BBC1), 10.00pm The Big Breakfast (BBC1), 10.30pm The Big Breakfast (BBC1), 11.00pm The Big Breakfast (BBC1), 11.30pm The Big Breakfast (BBC1), 12.00pm The Big Breakfast (BBC1).

HTV WALES

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THE FOUR FACES

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THE CHILDREN'S CHANNEL

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THE TIMES MARCH 18 1995

TUESDAY MARCH 21

CHOICE: an updated report on cot death

Despite research, the babies continue to die

10.50pm. The writer Gary Phillips celebrates the work of the American soul singer whose passionate, soulful penetrating songs have provided an inspiration for a generation of his fellow blacks. Since a stage accident in 1990 left him paralysed below the neck, Curtis Mayfield has been virtually silent. But Phillips' sympathetic film makes a persuasive case for a talent which embraced stinging, aching and publishing.

BBC1

6.00 Business Breakfast (BBC1)
6.30 BBC Breakfast News (BBC1)
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7.00 News (BBC1)
7.15 News (BBC1)
7.30 News (BBC1)
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11.30 News (BBC1)
11.45 News (BBC1)
12.00 News (BBC1)

BBC2

6.00 Open University: Maths (7.55-9.00)
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CHANNEL 4

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